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of the Georgia
Library Association**

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On the COVER

January 2008 marks the one-year anniversary of the St. Simons Public Library's return from temporary facilities into its newly renovated home. The library is located in a high-visibility area at the northern end of Neptune Park. Sharing the building with the St. Simons Island Visitors Center, it sits in the shadow of the 104-foot St. Simons Island Lighthouse, one of the most recognizable landmarks on Georgia's coast. Composited photo by David Baker.



From the PRESIDENT

COMO XIX was a successful conference, and the theme, "Beaches, Blogs and Books," set the tone for fun activities and a variety of educational programs. Wednesday night on the beach, the New Members Roundtable sponsored a low-country boil with delicious food, good music and a time to visit with colleagues. The exhibits and authors' reception gave attendees an opportunity to talk with authors and vendors about their books, information resources, products and services. The outstanding keynote speakers and more than 100 concurrent sessions offered a wide range of topics on current trends and issues for all types of libraries.

As you know, the responsibilities for the conference are shared between GLA, the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology (GAIT) and the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA). GLA was responsible for the COMO XIX program, and JoEllen Ostendorf, 2007 GLA president, served as program chair. JoEllen did an exceptional job chairing the Program Selection Committee, scheduling the programs and making arrangements for the presentation equipment. Give kudos to JoEllen for all of her hard work in planning one of the best conference programs.

As we begin 2008, there are several dates to mark on your calendar. Jan. 25 is the date for the GLA Mid-Winter Conference. This is a meeting for all members. Network with colleagues throughout the state in division and interest group meetings and share your ideas, knowledge and expertise as program planning begins for COMO XX in Athens Oct. 15-17. Volunteer to serve on a committee by returning the committee preference form. Your talent and leadership are needed, and membership on a

standing committee is an excellent way to get involved in the association.

Plan to be in Atlanta on Feb. 14 for Library Day, sponsored by GLA, GAIT and GLMA. It is important for legislators to see a large contingency of library supporters and hear about library accomplishments in their communities. This is a time to thank legislators for their support and voice the need for their continued support. Encourage library trustees and friends to attend this event. Their presence and strong voice of support for libraries send a compelling message to legislators. GLA is the lead organization for this event, and Jim Cooper, director of West Georgia Regional Library, is coordinating the plans.

National Library Legislative Day 2008, May 13 and 14, is sponsored by the American Library Association, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, District of Columbia Library Association and the Special Library Association. The Georgia Public Library Service takes the lead for this event, and Julie Walker, GPLS assistant state librarian for support services and strategic initiatives, is the NLLD state coordinator for Georgia.

As the association begins a new year, invite colleagues who are new to the state or the profession to join GLA. Encourage colleagues who are not members of GLA to join. I am looking forward to working with you in 2008! ►►

— **Betty D. Paulk**
President
Georgia Library Association

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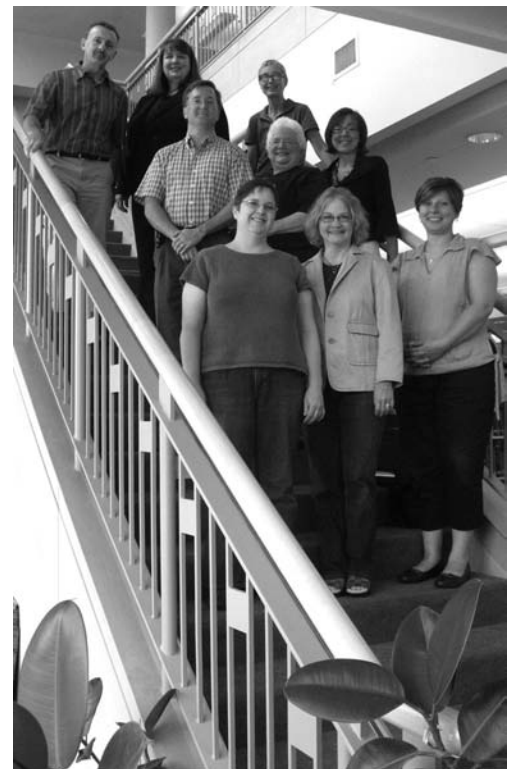
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From left, top row: David Baker, Lora Mirza and Susan Cooley. Middle row: Jeff Heck, Marcy Nader and Julie Walker. Bottom row: Laura Burtle, Teresa Pacheco and Sarah McGhee. Not pictured is Ann Vidor.

Joanne Lincoln
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My Own PRIVATE LIBRARY

A peek inside the personal library of a librarian

by Chris Carroll

My library... is like a river. It is a constantly moving entity. It has a life of its own.

Years from now, I will still have a library, but there will be subtle changes. The size may be different, and there may be new genres and subgenres flowing into it. When a money drought comes along, fewer books flow into it; when times are good, my bookcases overflow their banks and flood into other rooms in my house. And before I wear out the simile, let me just say that my personal library is not static. It grows, and my family and I grow with it.

My father was a constant reader, and when I was young — and because our house was relatively small — all of our books were kept on a long, two-shelf bookcase in my bedroom. Seeing my father read and being in such close proximity to all those books are what made me a passionate reader. My personal library started with the works of Jules Verne and H.G. Wells, but in the mid-1970s, two books shaped my mind (or warped it, as some would say). The first two adult novels I ever bought with my own money were *Carrie* by Stephen King and *Jaws* by Peter Benchley. After that, I read every scary book I could get my hands on, and my library today is a reflection of that love of the horror story.

Along with almost everyone else, I read Stephen King's works. In junior high school, I remember taking a copy of arguably one of the best horror short-story collections published, *Dark Forces*, to school and reading it instead of

my texts. That work got me hooked on short stories, and I continue to collect them today. In my home, you will find *Dark Descent*, *999*, *Prime Evil*, *Modern Masters of Horror* and others from varied authors, as well as collections by individual authors such as Stephen King, Robert McCammon, H.P. Lovecraft, Dan Simmons and Clive Barker.

My library does have other genres as well. In the last couple of years, I've been collecting crime noir books by Ken Bruen, Charlie Huston, Dennis Lehane and others. And I will read pretty much anything, but I tend to stick with fiction. I will take anything by George Pelecanos, Cormac McCarthy, Jeff Long, Karin Slaughter, Lee Child, Douglas Preston, Lincoln Child. However, those works always act like a wine cracker for me, just enough to cleanse my mental palate so I can try something new in horror.

My library grows now with children's books, with my daughter's Harry Potter books and my son's Magic Tree House collection. And I have started adding signed works as well. I prefer to contact the authors by e-mail and ask them to personalize them to me, for sentimental reasons and to reassure them that they are not wasting their time signing something that will wind up on eBay.

So, my river of books overflows at times and fills other rooms in my house, but I see that love of reading being passed on to my kids, and I cannot help but feel a little proud of that. ►►



Spotlight On CONSTRUCTION

Planning, communication are key in building new libraries

by Kathryn S. Ames and Greg Heid

So you want a new library for your community, but wonder where do you begin? This article presents an outline for *beginning* the process based on planning principles that will lead to a well-documented and articulated plan for the future. The quest for a new library or an addition/renovation project begins well before the local referendum and state grant allocation process. Relying on a solid strategic planning model will assist the board and director in determining the best direction of the project as well as its eventual scope. Writing a building program is the final step in the process; developing a strategic plan is the beginning point.



Ames



Heid

should adopt to address those needs. Other planning models are equally appropriate; however it is absolutely essential that the system develop a detailed plan of service before undertaking a building project. The "Plan" is the critical document that identifies the direction for the future and details how various services will be delivered to the public.

Community input may be gathered from focus groups, surveys, town hall meetings and direct interviews. It is important to learn what people expect and what they desire from the library. There are many examples of interview questions and surveys online; however, the key is to obtain information from library users which

will give the best indication of the services and resources that are most needed by the public in the library's service community. This is also the appropriate point to start looking at community data. NPFR provides many data sheets as well to easily gather and synthesize this needed information from the public.

Develop a Plan of Service

The first step a library system should take is the development of a comprehensive strategic plan of library service. By defining where the library currently is with its services to the community and where it wants to be in the future, the library system has taken the first steps toward the construction of a facility that works well for both the staff and the public.

One example of a successful planning model is the PLA *New Planning for Results* [Nelson, 2001], which has been used successfully by many libraries across the country. The key difference in the PLA approach from other planning models is the use of a community planning committee, the identification of community needs and values, and emphasis on the community's needs as being the primary focus for the library facility.

By involving community leaders and identifying community needs, the group assesses roles the library

The key roles of the library must reflect community needs. NPFR identifies a variety of service responses, or roles, which include many of the traditional and opportunities for nontraditional services, resources and activities that a library will offer to the public. Using these roles and the descriptors, the board, director and committee, comprised of representatives of the target audience, should undertake a "vision quest."

In this process, the committee envisions the ideal future of the community or library service area, taking into account community needs as reflected in responses to surveys and other information-gathering techniques.

Once a vision is established, the group should take a realistic look at where the community is at the present time in reference to the vision.

The realistic look at the community's needs will include all aspects of the community, including library service and facilities. The board, library director and community committee next identify what it will take to move the community toward the ideal future vision and how library services can assist in realizing the vision — the needs of the community. Finally, this group will then select the three or four library service responses, or roles, that will best realize the future vision of the community. This becomes a plan for the library.

The "Plan" reflects the roles, goals and objectives and includes the types of services a library system hopes to deliver, the optimal size of the collection, technology considerations including a discussion of how equipment will be used, staffing requirements based on identified roles, and actual facility needs. This information and direction assists the board, director, staff and the community committee in further defining the development of the Needs Statement. According to Richard Hall, the Needs Statement should include the following points:

- ▶ Define library service area
- ▶ Analyze the community
- ▶ Analyze the community's need for library service
- ▶ Develop a plan of service
- ▶ Determine the adequacy of the current library
- ▶ Assess space needs
- ▶ Evaluate alternatives

The Needs Statement is the starting point for a building program. [Hall, 1994] Included in this document should be a Facilities Master Plan that shows where libraries are currently located, the square footage of each facility, the immediate service area of each library building, indications of planned growth areas, planned future locations of library facilities with square-foot determinations, and documentation of needs for both the existing and future library facilities.

Next Steps

After the completion of a formal plan of service and the Needs Statement, the Building Committee is ready to identify space needs. At this point in the process, the library system may hire a facilities consultant to write a building program or may undertake using Libris, a



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software program developed by the California State Library, to assist the library staff in writing the actual building program.

An experienced library consultant will be able to use the library's strategic plan's service priorities, roles, resources, needs and expectations to develop a building program that will produce a facility that will reflect the plan of the library system, meet the needs of the service area and embody the best (most up-to-date) practices of library construction.

Libris can be used by a library director or staff to develop a building program. Libris helps to identify possible areas and assigns generic spaces and possible furniture to the areas. It is the responsibility of the person using Libris to ensure that the final product is indeed representative of the actual needs of the library and reflective of the goals of the library. Each aspect of the library's service plan must be examined and special requirements identified in order to best meet the needs of the community and public within the library's service area.

Financing

Raymond Holt, building consultant, says, "More library facility projects come to grief on the shoals of financial difficulty than on any other hazard." Planning several years in advance of the actual project requires skill analyzing inflationary cycles and construction knowledge. Projecting costs accurately is often handled as a quick and dirty process when it should be undertaken with the help of construction experts and a comprehensive building program.

Project estimates may be based on figures from Means construction publications, state library consultants, Libris, the building program construction consultant and other sources within the construction community using projected square footage and the best calculations for construction. Use of professionals is essential if one hopes to have a realistic budget and credibility with funding agencies.

The most popular tools for raising local matching funds in Georgia include the Special Local Option Sales Tax, impact fees and other local referenda. The library board and director should communicate with the municipal funding agencies of the library system to ascertain which option the city, county or school system prefers to use to raise one-time capital funds for construction. Most likely, the municipal agency has a scheduled process already in place

that the library board can become part of, to raise the necessary funds to construct a future library facility.

The library director should also talk to fellow heads of public agencies (who already have built facilities using funds from SPLOST, impact fees or local referenda) to learn how to enter into the process most used by the municipality to raise capital funds for construction.

In addition to local government, some libraries may choose to develop a capital fundraising campaign seeking donations, grants and direct gifts for the construction of a library facility. The Friends of the Library and the local library foundation or endowment may also be involved in such a fundraising

effort. These grassroots efforts will usually involve a large number of people and build popular support for the library project.

And Don't Forget

"Organizations that have efficient, clear, reliable means of communication tend to be successful." [Barna, 2003] While much can be written about a marketing plan and sales techniques for rallying support for the project, the most important factor is keeping people informed. This may be accomplished by speaking to civic and community groups, newsletters, newspaper updates, case statements, information on the library's Web site and general library displays.

Keep the information flowing and informative! Do not forget to continually inform library staff members. All staff should all receive thorough training in the goals of the project, key points to discuss when the general public inquire about any future library facility, and print materials that have been developed about the future construction of the facility. Each of these steps is critical to a successful project. ►►

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- Holt, Raymond. *Wisconsin Library Building Project Handbook*. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 1978.
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"Organizations that have efficient, clear, reliable means of communication tend to be successful."

— George Barna
The Power of Vision

New Coweta County Library inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright

by Patricia Palmer

Coweta County is the 61st fastest-growing county in the United States and the 12th fastest-growing in Georgia. To meet the needs of its growing population, the Coweta County Board of Commissioners submitted, and citizens approved, a Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax in 2001 to fund improvements in county library services. The construction of a new library on the county's growing east side was primary in their plan and represents the first library built in Coweta County in 20 years. This library is the

central library in the newly established Coweta County library system.

"The vision has always been to create a library that facilitates, in many ways, vibrant, energetic and interactive learning," said Barbara Osborne-Harris, Coweta County Library director. "Our philosophy is that the customer should be engaged, and focusing on that engagement is one of the most

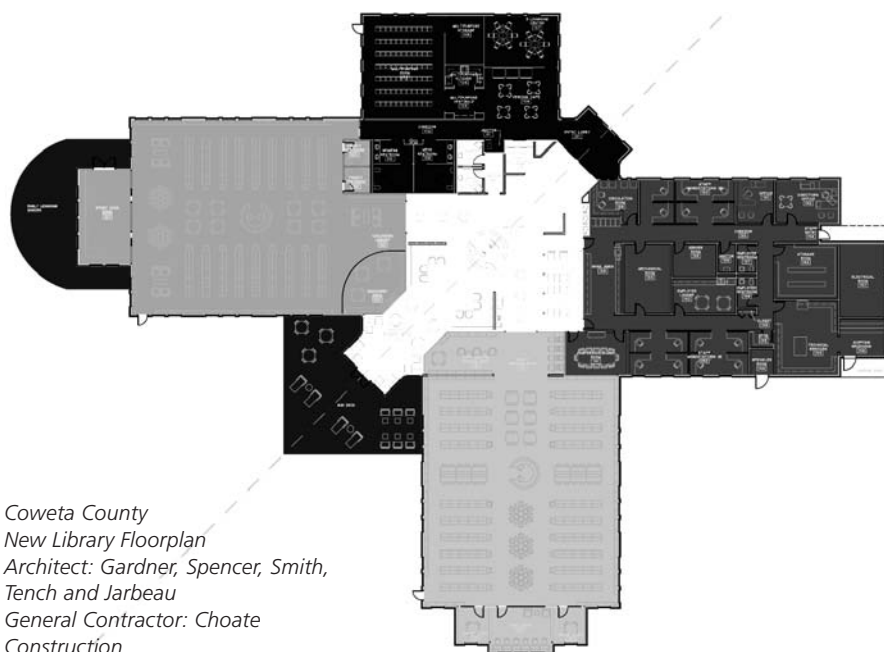
important things we can do to ensure we offer quality library services."

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The project architect, Kathleen Curry, referred to Frank Lloyd Wright's designs

for architectural inspiration. The low hipped roofs with wide overhangs give the illusion that the building is hugging the landscape. The building is only one story, but the hierarchy of spaces uses verticality for areas to stay low to the ground while others reach for the sky. The play with roof heights gave the opportunity to bring in natural light from all levels. The exterior is various shades of browns, respecting the meadow's own natural colors. The primary and secondary axes of the building also pulled from Wright's design. Utilizing major and minor axes for the library assisted in dividing regions of the building and also helped in creating the building's flow. The interior finishes complement the natural landscape.

The interior design of the library has six specified service points. First, the library entrance houses a lobby and multiple-use spaces including: a meeting room, the e-learning center for technology and media instruction



Coweta County
New Library Floorplan
Architect: Gardner, Spencer, Smith,
Tench and Jarbeau
General Contractor: Choate
Construction

and the café. Second, the library's interior entrance is designed to draw the library customer to a centrally positioned circular customer service desk. Specific features include a retail merchandised area of recently released titles, express Internet stations, self-check-out machines and soft seating with side tables.

The third and fourth areas consist of separate children and adult wings. The children's wing includes formal and informal collection arrangements, technology for school age and preschool children, a discovery area for science and creative arts, a story room for storytelling and other literature programs, a parenting collection and formal and informal seating in soft chairs for children and adults accompanied by children. The adult services area accommodates the service needs of the conventional, contemporary and new library customer. Space design includes dedicated rooms for quiet and small group study and computers for public use. There is a separate teen leisure reading area with soft cushioned seating and popular books and magazines to promote teen use of the library. The sixth area includes two dynamic outdoor elements, a reading sun deck for adult, teen and family use and an early learning garden for children and their families.

"It all had to fit together," said Osborne-Harris. "The construction and the layout of the library were the absolute critical first steps to ensuring that our library and the people who work here could ultimately achieve the goals we set."

The end result is a good balance for Coweta County — traditional meets contemporary. "We're excited," said Osborne-Harris. "We think something different is happening here." ►►



Patrons will be greeted by employees in a sun-filled atrium as they enter the new Coweta County Library. (Photos courtesy Choate Construction)



Aerial views show the front and back of the new Coweta County Library. (Photos courtesy Aerial Innovations of Georgia Inc.)



Ann Hamilton and Fred Smith inspect "The ARC." (Photo by Frank Fortune)

Expansion and renovation of Georgia Southern University's Henderson Library spurred by quintupling of student body

by Ann Hamilton and Mark Holland

For more than 30 years, the Zach S. Henderson Library has been the hub of academic life at Georgia Southern University. Since the summer of 2004, the library has been the focus of an extensive expansion and renovation to help meet the needs of the university's growing student body. The first phase of the \$22.75 million project — an 89,000-square-foot addition to the east side of the original building — opened on Oct. 1, 2006.

When the project is completed in 2008, Georgia Southern will have one of the finest, state-of-the-art library facilities in the Southeast. Georgia Southern College had only 4,000 students when Henderson Library was constructed in 1975. Since then, the institution has earned university status and seen the size of its student body increase by almost 425 percent.

The original building included 109,515 square feet of space, but significant issues arose when Georgia Southern's enrollment approached

14,000 in the mid-1990s. In June 2001, the Board of Regents approved the sale of bonds to fund a project that would renovate the existing building and construct two new additions that would add a total of 101,000 square feet to the facility.

The project began in June 2004. A little more than two years later, the addition to the east side of the library was ready to serve students, faculty and staff. The entrance is highlighted by a striking three-story glass atrium and a virtual waterfall. Once inside the addition, library patrons have wireless access, laptops that can be borrowed for use within the building, two classrooms that contain a total of 60 computers and a multipurpose room with seating for up to 50.

The addition is also the home of the first automated retrieval system in the Southeast. Known as "The ARC," it is capable of storing 800,000 items in

5,848 separate bins stacked 45 feet high. During the current phase of construction, the original building is being completely renovated. The

Spotlight On CONSTRUCTION

facelift will include the removal of virtually all of the nonload-bearing walls on the first, second and third floors. Most of the windows in the original building are being converted to floor-to-ceiling windows that mirror the design of the new additions.

A four-story addition is being constructed on the west side of the original building. Covering 12,000 square feet, this addition will feature seating on the first, second and third floors and a balcony on the fourth floor that looks down on the third floor and through huge windows. The views from the fourth floors are spectacular. When the project is completed, there will be space for most of the library's collections in open stacks, lesser-used materials in the ARC, and 3400 seats. The project is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2008. Construction progress can be viewed at <http://library.georgiasouthern.edu/building/>. Daily progress can be viewed through live Web cameras linked to that page. ►►



*The aerial shot was taken in August 2007.
(Photo courtesy of Ellis Wood)*

St. Simons' library welcomed 70th anniversary in new facility

In January 2007, the St. Simons Public Library held a grand reopening event to mark its return from temporary facilities into its newly renovated home — just in time for its 70th anniversary on March 16.

"We have 1,200 extra square feet of space — and much more to offer — in the renovated building," said Libby Hogan, chair of the library's board of directors. "But we still have the same ready-to-serve atmosphere as always."

Although the St. Simons Public Library is housed in a historic casino, the board recently chose not to gamble with its future as a stand-alone facility. In July 2006, two-thirds of the way through an 18-month renovation that began a year earlier, St. Simons joined the Three Rivers Public Library System (TRRLS) and PINES (Public Information Network for Electronic Services), bringing its patrons access to more than 8.5 million items owned by other PINES member libraries.

"The affiliation has been great for the library," said Joe Shinnick, director of TRRLS, "because it no longer has to be all things to all people. Having St. Simons as a part of TRRLS also means a lot to the people of Glynn County, because they now have a second



Staff members Dewey Darby, Lisa Bunch and Manager Maureen Hersey take pride in their library's "ready-to-serve atmosphere."

public library here. The St. Simons staff and patrons are a very active and dedicated group of people, and we are delighted to have them as full members of our family."

Spotlight On CONSTRUCTION

The library is located in a high-visibility area at the northern end of Neptune Park. Sharing the building with the St. Simons Island Visitors Center, it sits in the shadow of the 104-foot St. Simons Island Lighthouse, one of the most recognizable landmarks on Georgia's coast. According to manager Maureen Hersey, the library currently has approximately 35,000 volumes. ►►



Comfortable seating and clean design elements make the reading room a focal point of the new St. Simons library.

Residents welcome Henry County's new Fairview branch



From left: Stamey, Baker, Harper and Basler

Hundreds of area residents joined Henry County Public Library System employees, board members and numerous local officials on Oct. 21 to celebrate the grand opening of the system's new Fairview branch.

Dr. Gordon Baker, chairman of the library board, welcomed the crowd and thanked everyone who played a role in making the newest branch a reality. Commissioners Johnny Basler, Jason Harper and Randy Stamey joined Baker in the ribbon-cutting ceremony and in unveiling a commemorative bronze plaque by the entrance.

The 15,000-square-foot facility, which officially opened to the public Dec. 1, includes more than 20,000 books and magazines, and features sections for children, teens and adults. It is the system's fifth branch and is the first library the county has built outside of an incorporated area.

"This is an area that has never had a library facility," said Carolyn Fuller, system director, "and this was a community-driven project – one that would not have come to fruition without the diligent work of many community members." ►►

Hall County prepares for opening of Spout Springs branch

The Spout Springs Branch of the Hall County Library System is tentatively scheduled to open in late spring 2008. The budget for the project will total approximately \$6 million, the bulk of which will come from local SPLOST funds supplemented by a \$2 million state construction grant.

The facility will be located in Flowery Branch at the corner of Spout Springs Road and Lake Sterling Boulevard. The architectural firm for the project is Pope Partners of Roswell, and construction has been managed by Scroggs and Grizzel Contracting, Inc. of Gainesville.

The Spout Springs Branch is situated on five acres and is approximately 22,400 square feet, the second largest branch in the library system. It is anticipated the opening day collection will contain more than 40,000 items.

Some special highlights of the facility include a large computer lab, a dedicated storytime room, the Friends of the Library gift shop and coffeehouse, a lactation center for nursing mothers, a dividable meeting room, self check-out using RFID technology and a screened back porch.

Another exciting development is that the landscaping irrigation for the project will be gray water provided from a nearby county treatment plant. ►►



Above: In this November photo, workers have framed in the library's main entrance. Below: The Friends of the Library Coffeehouse and Cafe begins to take shape.



Georgia State's library transformation project completed

by Laura G. Burtle

The Georgia State University Library Transformation is complete! Funded primarily by student fees, the transformation project allowed the library to renovate space in Libraries North and South (built in 1968 and 1988, respectively) to create a two-story Learning Commons, build extensive collaborative work spaces, expand technological services and provide better access to research resources.

Planning for the Library

Transformation began in 2001 with the development of a library master plan. This plan, developed with campuswide input, was presented to the library staff and university administration in 2002. At that time, the timeline for the project was projected to be at least 10 years. The president suggested that the students would be willing to fund the project, and in that way, it could be completed in a much shorter time frame. During 2003, the Transformation Task Force worked on a Campaign for a Student Fee, and in August 2003, the students voted for a fee to expedite the Library Transformation.

The next two years saw the fee approved by the Board of Regents, the hiring of design and construction firms, extensive programming and in 2005, the beginning of construction. For the next two years, construction proceeded, with the library open and the collection accessible. Books and staff moved and in some cases, moved again. The patience and understanding of library staff and our students were vital in moving the project forward smoothly and successfully.



The goals of the transformation included a variety of study spaces, one-stop shopping for help with resources and research, places for students and faculty to collaborate and increased access to technology and media.

The library now has compact shelving that will accommodate at least 10 years of collection growth; a renovated Media Services Center;

two "group media rooms" that are available for watching videos or DVDs, listening to music, or practicing presentations; a quiet study room accommodating up to 50 users; 53 group study rooms accommodating six to 12 students per room; and a Learning Commons on Library North's first and second floor and the second floor bridge.

The Learning Commons helps the library meet the informational and technological needs of today's students. In addition to providing traditional library services, the Learning Commons integrates technological and instructional elements often found outside the library, including technology, writing and ESL expert assistance. This integration provides the student with a comprehensive learning space in which he or she can research, analyze and process information into a presentable format. It creates a tighter bond between the library and the rest of the university and, ultimately, a seamless learning environment that promotes self-direction in learning.

The project was designed by the Leo A Daly firm, in collaboration with

Spotlight On CONSTRUCTION

library employees, students and faculty. The library was expanded by 11,217 square feet, primarily from expansions of the bridges that run between the two buildings and span Decatur Street in downtown Atlanta. The three existing bridges were more than doubled in size, and a new, even wider bridge was added on the second floor. These glass bridges provide a light, airy space for students and are extremely popular. Each bridge features group study rooms, study tables and lounge seating. The second floor bridge expands the Learning Commons in Library North, with ample computer seating.

The library offers classes that are held regularly to teach information literacy

concepts, research skills and library resources. The project created two classrooms: a large, 52-seat, computer-equipped classroom and a smaller, 25-seat computer classroom. The addition of a second classroom will greatly enhance the number and variety of classes offered by the library.

The student reaction to the transformed library has been enthusiastic. "The new library is so bright and inviting, and the design is very student-friendly. Even the bridges from one side of the library to the other are filled with group study rooms with big windows, computers and comfortable seating," said journalism major Sybil Davidson. Gloria Ramchandani, a sophomore

majoring in risk management, adds "Before, it wasn't bright, and it looked very old. I like it so much better. It's easier to concentrate."

In addition to Georgia State students, faculty and staff, the library welcomes visitors to our facilities. Legislators, state employees, visiting scholars and researchers, and students enrolled in other higher education institutions are among the various patrons who take advantage of our many resources.

The Georgia State University Library serves more than 1.5 million visitors annually, and we expect FY08's figure to increase substantially with the post-transformation popularity. ►►



Design firm Leo A Daly received a 2006 Building Information Model (BIM) Award from the American Institute of Architects' Technology in Architectural Practice Knowledge Community for its work on the Georgia State University Library.

SPLOST funding makes Chickamauga expansion a reality

by Darla Chambliss

The Chickamauga Public Library, a branch of the Cherokee Regional Library System, has experienced such growth in programming and book collections that an expansion was greatly needed. The dream of expansion and redesign was just that until the city of Chickamauga, upon the recommendation of John Culpepper, city utilities manager, allocated \$100,000 of local SPLOST funds. That money, along with a \$100,000 Department of Community Affairs development grant sponsored by Georgia state Rep. Jay Neal, was made available to fund the addition of a local history and genealogy room

at the Chickamauga Public Library. The allotment of this money made the expansion and redesign dream a reality, as the placement of the local history room within the existing structure was an impossibility.

Bobbie Abernathy, library manager, lobbied long and hard to bring about public awareness of the expansion need and to secure local and state funding. The Friends of the Chickamauga Public Library provided many volunteer hours raising funds

for the library building project. Pink flamingos, silent auctions and ghost walks were just a few of the fundraising activities spearheaded by the group. In 2006, the General Assembly of

Georgia, with the support of state Sen. Jeff Mullis, appropriated \$600,000 for the expansion and improvement of the Chickamauga Public Library. The Jewell Foundation, a philanthropic support structure for the library, has donated more than \$100,000 to aid the building project and support the library during the move.

Local architect Jack Killian of Killian Clark Partnership was hired to design the 4,200-square-foot addition and renovation that will bring the total square footage of the library to 9,400 square feet. Killian came to our project with library design experience, having designed the Catoosa County Library in Fort Oglethorpe. Cherokee Regional Library Director Lecia Eubanks, Killian and Chickamauga Public Library staff members put their heads together and went to work planning the new spaces for the expanded library. The planning process moved quickly into the moving process. The

Spotlight On **CONSTRUCTION**



Children's staff members Debbie Goodson, Karen Trusty and Martha Burrows, along with Director Lecia Eubanks, discuss future children's department furnishings.

Chickamauga Public Library collection was re-housed in the Chickamauga Civic Center, located just behind our library building. Most of the collection was moved the first two weeks in June, and the library staff is most happy with the temporary location of the collection.



The demolition of the library begins with a small hole. The children attending storytime were allowed to watch the construction workers making the hole in the library building from a window in our temporary location, just next door in the Chickamauga Civic Center. One small boy said, "This is the best thing I have ever seen at the library!"

Selection of new furnishings, decorative finishes and lighting has been completed, and the patrons are getting very excited about the new library. The walls of the building have been erected, and the visual appeal of the expanded library is calling out to townspeople to slow down and take a look. The proposed completion date of the project was Dec. 24. How's that for a holiday treat? According to Eubanks, "the project is ahead of schedule and right on budget. How often does that happen?"

Eubanks attributes the success of the project to the library staff, the Helton Construction Co., Killian Clark Partnership and, most of all, the support of the local reading community. Our goal is to be moved into the gorgeous new space and operational by mid-to late January 2008. ►►



The steel frame construction begins.



The most recent photo of the building project, taken November 19, features the new side entrance and future courtyard area.

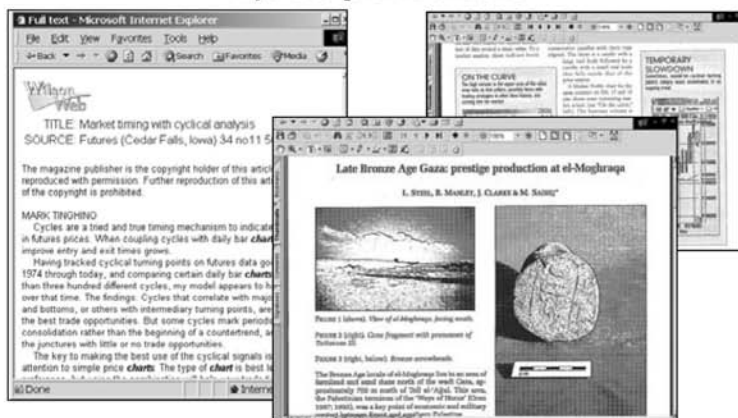
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Georgia Gwinnett College prepares to build academic library

by Joy Garmon and Gene Ruffin

A chance to build a new building from the ground up is a remote possibility for many older, land-strapped institutions, but at Georgia Gwinnett College, everything is so new that literally anything the institution does is from the ground up, and soon that will include the construction of a new library building.

The campus, home of the first four-year institution to be chartered in Georgia in more than 100 years, is located in Gwinnett County on approximately 200 acres of land. Originally, this land was home to Gwinnett University Center, a unique concept that gave University System of Georgia institutions “branch” locations at which they could conduct classes and provide typical academic services to students. The original partners in this venture were Georgia Perimeter College and the University of Georgia, with the later additions of Medical College of Georgia and Southern Polytechnic State University. By 2004, these institutions were serving more than 8,000 students in a rapidly growing county — one that had doubled its population in each of the past three decades. In order to better meet the needs of this growing population, the possibility of converting from the center to a stand-alone four-year college became a reality with the vote of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in October 2004. In March of the following year, the Georgia General Assembly passed SR33, establishing a new college in Gwinnett County.

Currently the campus is composed of only four buildings. Three of these buildings were originally developed for the use of the center and include two classroom buildings and the Signature Building. The Signature Building

housed the administrative offices for the center and for partner institutions, an atrium, a café, classrooms and a library space. The fourth building, originally owned by someone from the private sector and adjacent to campus, was purchased after the college’s formation.

To receive SACS accreditation, the new college must meet certain standards and be able to provide for the information needs of the school’s population. Students also need appropriate gathering space — space where they can meet, study and contemplate. There are few places on the current campus that meet these needs, and what exists now will certainly not be adequate for a projected enrollment of 10,000 to 15,000 students by 2012. For example, the current library space is housed on two open floors within the Signature Building; it has a little more than 12,000 square feet of space and houses approximately 25,000 volumes. A new, stand-alone building will be needed to meet all of the needs of the new college. For Georgia Gwinnett, the ability to construct such a building arrived with the Legislature’s approval of the Board of Regents budget in May 2007. This budget included a provision of \$28.3 million for a new library building at Georgia Gwinnett.

As an initiation of our planning process, GGC established the Library Planning Group in 2006, comprised of faculty, student and administrative stakeholders. Through several meetings and site visits, this body came up with a list of program needs and recommendations, which was submitted to the College Cabinet. These included such items as design concepts, sustainability recommendations, service areas and facilities. As the college moves through

Continued on page 31





As part of its renovation, the Forsyth County Public Library's information desk was relocated to a central location that provides a welcoming view for patrons entering through the main doors.

Forsyth County Public Library unveils expansion, renovation

by Carla Beasley

The Forsyth County Public Library has completed an addition and renovation project. A 15,000-square-foot Administrative Office facility was added to the Cumming Library building. These offices provide space for headquarters staff, including public services managers, children's programming staff, business services, collection development and technical services, facilities staff and information technology staff. A conference room, training lab, server room and storage areas complete the functional requirements.

Administrative staff had been located in various offices, hallways and closets in the Cumming Library facility. They moved into the new headquarters building in January 2007. Once this was completed, a major renovation project was undertaken in the public area. About 3,500 square feet of space was reclaimed from former offices. A 1,000-square-foot reading room,

housing the magazines and newspapers, was added to the back.

The new design scheme was crafted to appeal to future users. Existing mahogany furnishings, traditionally styled, such as end panels and the circulation desk, were blended with a contemporary color scheme and carpet design. The carpet was laid in large chevrons, with seven colors ranging from dark blue at the entrance to light blue and light green in the center to dark green at the back of the building. Columns and soffits were trimmed in silver. Decorative lighting was added several places. The Friends contributed funds for a focal piece — a bronze statue of a child reading.

The children's area doubled in size with additional space formerly the materials workroom. Large murals were painted on two walls. Support columns that were original to the building were retained, with a colorful carpet pattern setting this area apart for comfortable seating. Four children's computers with "Little Tykes" housing units were installed for young users. These computers are in use most of the time. A little 5-year-old girl said, "Thank you for the

new big kids' computers. They are awesome!"

The information desk moved into a central location, easily in view of patrons walking in the front doors.

Six more sit-down patron computers were added, with several additional stand-up terminals located near the stacks. Tables for laptop users to access power and data filled two walls. Shelving increased by 10 percent for expansion of the print and media collections.



The Forsyth County Friends group helped purchase this bronze statue of a reading child.

The biggest challenge of the renovation was moving the collection and shelving to lay new

carpet. The library contracted with a firm to move the shelving with pneumatic shelf-movers — without removing the books. The shelf-movers were fascinating pieces of equipment that certainly made the move faster. Instead of the traditional rolled goods, the library chose carpet tiles, which have proved to be easier to maintain — soiled squares can be replaced within a matter of minutes.

Patrons have been complimentary of the new look. Staff report that patrons often say, "This place looks great!" Comments like these make all the work worthwhile. ►►



Large murals decorate two walls in the children's area of the library.

GOING WHITE PAPER

The sounds and the furies: Managing an active library in a new generation of learners

by Alan Bernstein

The Odum Library of Valdosta State University recently participated in the LibQual™ survey to assess how well the library is performing in three specific areas: Effect of Service, Library as Place and Information Control. Though all areas received comments from survey participants, the Library as Place section was of greatest interest. In particular, noise in the library received by far the most comments, most of them negative. Patrons were upset with both the volume of noise floating around the building as well as the nature of the noise itself.

In olden times, times when stereotypically bun-haired, stern-looking, almost exclusively female librarians roamed the floors, anything louder than a whisper was quickly and decisively “shushed.” Times, appearances, and the predominance of female librarians and library staff have changed — indeed, changed a lot, if our library is any indication.

But, then, what about the noise? Quietness has heretofore been a hallmark characteristic of the academic library. Now it sometimes seems as though noise is not merely a sublime nuisance but practically an expected accompanier to the bustle of activity in the library. The chatter

of groups working together on a project, the cacophonous rings of multiple cell phones, printers churning out pages of prose (or, perhaps, porn), and the disquieting hiss of the espresso machine in the resident café combine to make the library a much different place than most of us remember from days gone by.

Is this bad? Is this a natural evolution? Is this a harbinger of what the 21st century academic library sounds like?

As I examined the noise phenomenon in my library, reviewed its history, contemplated my developing attitudes, and, ultimately, analyzed my (and the library staff's) thoughts about the noise issue, I identified a model of explanation. Actually, it is not my model at all; it is a famous model first written about in the 1960s and on a subject far removed from library noise.

In 1969, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross posited a famous archetype for how people deal with grief, tragedy, and death.¹ The model involved five discrete stages with a person passing consecutively through each stage. My association of library noise with Kübler-Ross' five stages of grief is

neither an attempt at macabre humor nor an attempt to shock an audience. In my ruminations, over several years, regarding the perennial, bothersome, and oft-commented on issue of library noise, I noticed that many of my own stages of reaction to the issue itself, as well as patrons' complaints, fit (admittedly in a much less life-changing way) this famous model.

Kübler-Ross' five stages are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. When looking at library noise and each of these five emotions/stages, clearly there are not “perfect” matches in the library arena. Nevertheless, our history at the Odum Library points to curious and interesting parallels. When attendance began a rather sharp ascension in the 1990s, as personal computers became more popular and students enjoyed the opportunity to check e-mail or surf the Web in the comfort of the library, noise began to increase noticeably. We responded, though, clearly with *denial* to comments and complaints regarding this upsurge in noise. As the library staff had experienced the noise increase in a gradual, measured way, the prompt reply to such a comment or complaint was outright denial: “Oh no, it's not really that noisy; it

just seems that way in the one area where you happen to be sitting. Why not move somewhere else." The "denial" approach was part-legitimate and part-stonewalling. We had always had a rather informal, unwritten noise policy calling for quiet in certain designated areas of the building, though enforcement was sporadic, inconsistent, and necessitated staff to be part-time police officers, which was extremely unpopular with the staff and with patrons as well. Like the terminal patient initially denying the reality of his or her condition, it was easier merely to deny that a problem with library noise existed than to deal with it straightaway.

The second stage of dealing with noise, parallel with the Kübler-Rossian grief model, is *anger*. More specifically, in the case of library noise, it may not be so much the

emotion of anger setting in, as it is an annoyance or irritation as the reality of the problem reveals itself. Having passed through the denial phase, our library staff came to realize that noise was substantively a different concern than it had been years ago. The bustle of "normal" activity united with other distracters (for example, larger groups working together on projects, multiple cell phone conversations, large groups playing role-playing games) forced the realization of a problem and led, somewhat consequently, to exasperation on the part of staff that did resemble anger.

Now, the third step in the model is *bargaining* and, indeed, I find obvious parallels in the ways libraries deal with the noise phenomenon. After denying a problem with noise exists, and then the grudging recognition peppered with

annoyance setting in, what transpires are attempts to make the problem go away, usually not with drastic, strong-arm techniques, but with modifications to existent policy or, perhaps, the creation of a thoroughly new noise policy. Compromises are made, and concessions and conciliations take hold. Maybe a designated room is established for cellular phone use. Maybe, as in our library, areas of floors are specified for active-learning areas (more noise allowed) or quiet-study zones (silence or low-level, hushed conversations only allowed). Whatever arrangements are made and whatever policies are put into place, it is a form of bargaining with an emerging reality: Noise in libraries, much more noise than historically acceptable or conceivable, exists and likely will not disappear. The noisemakers (personal and machine-made) are bargained with; the

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attitude becomes “they cannot be eliminated, thus it is better to work with them and find a mutually acceptable middle ground.”

As we move from the stage of bargaining to the stage of **depression**, a realization must take place. Few if any librarians or library staff members, I imagine, truly get depressed over the reality of a noise problem in their building. Here, I would say, using a model of grief may be a bit overstated. Nevertheless, though depression in a clinical sense may not be present, other depression-like emotions and feelings may obtain. Once a library noise policy and procedure have been set through bargaining, aggravation, dissatisfaction and frustration may grow in library employees having to live with the noise and enforce a policy that, essentially, allows it. These ways of thinking or feeling do mimic depression, at least subtly. The inability to force noise out altogether, the rationalizing that justifies the existence of undesired and counterintuitive policies, and the realization that the library is no longer the same place it once was (and, likely, will never be again) can cause a mild depression, especially in long-term, older employees.

Taken to its modeled conclusion, the last stage of reaction is **acceptance**. After passing through the feelings and mild emotional turbulence of the four previous phases, library employees eventually accept that a different building environment exists than the one they have traditionally understood. The accommodation of some noise, selectively and pragmatically allowed, is a form of demonstrative acceptance to a new way of being. There are perhaps few libraries that finally have reached this last stage. Most libraries are in a nether region somewhere between bargaining and depression. Libraries want to adapt and move with the

times, but such wrangling to create mutually acceptable boundaries and guidelines can create disharmony and rancor, both for patrons and library staff.

Libraries are in a transitional phase. The desire to stay current, not merely with the books and journals on the shelves but with varying infrastructure, necessitates acclimatizing to changing patron expectations. Our Internet café features a Jazzman™ snack bar where jazz music is played all day and evening. Heretofore, it would have been unimaginable to have continual music playing anywhere in the library. A small symbol of changing times, perhaps. Noise is but one issue in the changing landscape of academic libraries, including: prioritizing computer and printer access (for example, what privileges do community members, alumni, and children of staff or faculty have in a local academic library?); food and drink policies in the library; and, library hours (will we all eventually be truly 24/7?).

Many libraries have begun handling these developing issues; other libraries have yet to address them, perhaps thinking (naively) that they will go away or waiting to see which way the winds of change blow regarding emerging technologies and student demands on library service.

The quandary regarding library noise is simply a representative phenomenon in the mushrooming evolution occurring in academic libraries. The advent of the personal computer may have been the first salvo, but so much more has followed. Maintaining a holding pattern or, worse, trying to impede or thwart the changes in students' natures and needs is akin to placing a lot of fingers in a lot of holes in the dike. It is not merely obstructionist; it is counterproductive. To paraphrase

the father of information theory, Claude Shannon², communication is reliable and productive when it occurs over even noisy channels provided that the rate of communication is below a certain limit referred to as the channel capacity. In other words, the very theme of this paper, library noise, may be a metaphor for the importance of clear communication between the library and its customer base. Too much “noise” hinders clear communication, though a certain degree of noise is acceptable if the conduits for the communication remain sufficiently open. Attempting to stifle the noise altogether may prove too onerous a task, neither worth the effort nor, ultimately, in the best interests of the library or its users. And, moving from the genius of Claude Shannon to that of Thomas Kuhn . . .

What I see ultimately happening is a paradigmatic shift in the way libraries operate and respond to noise (as well as other aforementioned traditional “problems”). Only when this shift fully obtains, will the final Kübler-Rossian stage of “acceptance” truly occur. What is being seen in today's academic libraries are learning commons, less physical space devoted to books and journals and more space to computers, open learning areas, cafés, and peripatetic reference librarians with clipped-on Bluetooths™. These are all signs of the shift occurring. We definitely live in interesting times as active libraries evolve. ►►

Resources:

1. Kübler-Ross, Elisabeth. (1969) *On Death and Dying*. New York: Macmillan.
2. Shannon, C.E. (1948, July and October). A Mathematical Theory of Communication. *Bell System Technical Journal*, 27, pp. 379–423 & 623–656.

COLO WHITE PAPER

Trading libraries: Off with a roar, but will it soar?

by Amy Geisen and Carol Waggoner-Angleton

Libraries are caught between that proverbial “rock and a hard place.” We want to provide opportunities for our librarians and staff to expand their training and make professional connections, but we can’t offer very many opportunities because of budget and time constraints. It is often difficult to find a venue that provides both an opportunity to address training issues and make professional connections. Workshops and conferences, both live and online, may address training needs and/or professional connections, but seldom do these venues address both of these needs effectively.

What is needed is a flexible program that could provide for these needs in a one-to-one relationship and, compared to the cost of the average conference or workshop, at relatively modest expense.

Trading Libraries is a program originally proposed by Callie McGinnis, dean of libraries at Columbus State University. The goals of the program are that librarians and staff would receive a “healthy and beneficial dose of professional development experience and ... make new professional connections [to] strengthen the library network.”¹ McGinnis claims she was actually inspired by TV programs like FOX’s “Trading Spouses” and ABC’s “Wife Swap.” More serious inspiration was derived from a job-shadowing experience with a fellow cataloger. The program, developed with three colleagues, had these basic guidelines:²

- ▶ A participant would shadow their counterpart from another University System of Georgia library
- ▶ The participant could be a librarian or staff member
- ▶ The swap would take place in the summer since this might be the least disruptive time to arrange a visit.

At the time of writing, 18 people have expressed an interest in participating in Trading Libraries.³

Literature search results

As participants, the authors wanted to gain as much from the experience as possible. We determined to look at similar programs to make sure we understood the goals of Trading Libraries and our responsibilities as participants. In looking at the literature, we found that this program had the potential to have points in common with formal and informal mentoring programs, leadership schools, job exchanges and job-shadowing.

Formal and informal mentoring programs

In an article on the different facets of mentoring, Jones-Quartey discusses different formats of mentoring.⁴ Mentoring programs are categorized into different formats.

- ▶ One on one
- ▶ Group mentoring
- ▶ Team mentoring

The goals of formal mentoring programs such as the American Library Association’s New Members Round Table, among other examples, are teamwork, enhanced employee commitment, development of leadership qualities and the cultivation of new ideas and creativity.

Informal mentoring arises out of networking and personal relationships and works best in giving support and advice on career growth. This type of mentoring is good for career coaching, support and advice.

Leadership schools

Library leadership schools are considered to be very intense training.⁵ These are residential training programs, lasting for days or, in some instances, weeks. Participants are accepted through nomination or application. The goals of these schools are to:

- ▶ Develop leadership skills

- ▶ Cultivate junior librarians to succeed to senior management positions
- ▶ Encourage participants to take on leadership activities in professional associations
- ▶ Develop professional networks

Job exchanges

The primary advantages of a job exchange are outlined in an article by Jonathan Tindale⁶:

- ▶ The participant learns new skills from a different [library] culture ... enhances the individual's professional development.
- ▶ The participant adapts their abilities to a new environment, bringing a tremendous professional boost to the individual's knowledge and experience.
- ▶ The participants will return professionally reinvigorated, with knowledge gained from their exchange strengthening their commitment and professional abilities.

Some other points to make about job exchanges are:

- ▶ They normally take place for six months to a year.
- ▶ Most of the literature focused on international job

exchanges, but the job exchange generally involved a geographic distance. The participants literally swap jobs for the specified time period.

Job shadowing

The premise of job shadowing is to learn about a company or career by experiencing it in the shadow of a working professional.⁷ The library literature on job shadowing described this as a method applied to middle and high school students to determine a career path.

However, Katharine Hansen points out that:

- ▶ Students see how textbook learning is applied in the real world.
- ▶ New career directions can be explored by job shadowing.
- ▶ Different job environments expose a person to different job cultures.

While there are glimmers of all these arrangements — mentoring, leadership school, job exchange and job shadowing — that could eventually develop from participation in Trading Libraries, the literature revealed two programs, "Let's Share Our Tennessee Libraries," a Tennessee Library Association (TLA) pilot program in 1985 and the MAALL (Mid-America Association of Law

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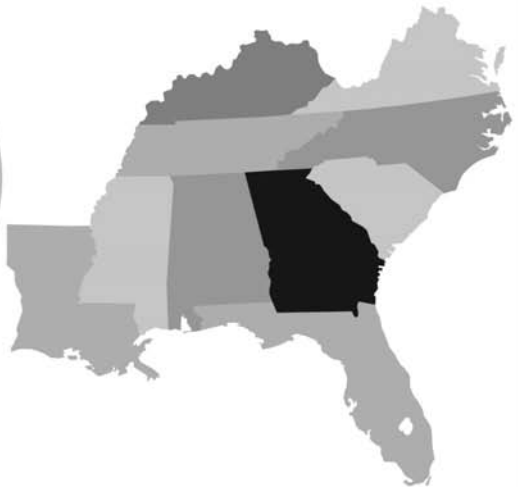
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Libraries) Staff Exchange Program, that had previously been attempted. These were similar to Trading Libraries in these ways:

- ▶ Exchanges were arranged between librarians working in the same field in different parts of the state/region.
- ▶ The purpose was to do in-depth observation on how another library or department operates.
- ▶ The focus is to trade information on strategies to deal with day-to-day operational challenges.
- ▶ The MAALL project included both professional and non-professional staff.

Participant experiences

In May, the director of Reese Library, Dr. William N. Nelson, made his staff aware of the Trading Libraries program. Staff who wished to participate submitted a short essay for evaluation. Once accepted, we were asked to determine which library to visit. Once the site had been agreed on, Dr. Nelson contacted the libraries in question, and when the directors were in agreement, the participants and the host departments worked out visit dates and details. Scheduling pushed our visit dates beyond the suggested month of July and into early August.

Carol's visit took place at Georgia College and State University on Aug. 2. GCSU's Special Collections staff, Nancy Davis Bray, associate director for Special Collections, and Christopher Ellis, archival associate, were excellent hosts. They talked about the guts, nuts and bolts of both Special Collections operations, including these topics:

- ▶ Security — GCSU can provide lockers for patrons' belongings. They discussed how key access for the lockers was managed and patron compliance with their use.
- ▶ Access — Augusta State University keeps a sign-in log for patrons and a manuscript log for patrons' use of manuscripts. GCSU goes a step farther, keeping visitor registration cards
- ▶ Permission to publish forms — Both institutions have formal documentation for this. GCSU shared the form used when patrons use items where ownership/copyright assignment is in doubt.
- ▶ Partnering with K-12 initiatives — An issue that Carol had interest in. Thanks to talking with Nancy and Chris, she is now aware that this is an area that has been a focus of the Board of Regents initiative. They discussed guidelines for projects, and Nancy recommended evaluating collections to use in these initiatives against the content of currently used middle school textbooks.
- ▶ Integrating Special Collections in the university curriculum — GCSU was able to have stronger

relationships with their English/literature department because of the presence of the Flannery O'Connor collection. General brainstorming on this issue ensued.

- ▶ Nancy made Carol aware of some grant possibilities Carol was unfamiliar with.
- ▶ Chris had just attended the Georgia Archives Institute and was able to fill Carol in on the scope of that program. He answered a lot of questions Carol had about sampling large collections, a practice she had read about but had never seen in practice.

As well as focusing on Special Collections, Nancy and Chris took Carol behind the scenes in all the library departments and in the museum to meet their colleagues. Carol appreciated the museum visit because it led to a fruitful discussion on mounting portable displays. Carol found out about the Georgia Women of Achievement display, which could be brought to her library for "free." A bonus was attending the staff training session on reference interviews that was being conducted the day of Carol's visit. She took all of these impressions home to her library's Inreach Committee, which is concerned with staff training.

Amy visited Armstrong Atlantic State University for her Trading Libraries experience on Aug. 8 and 9. Amy worked with Ann Fuller, head of circulation and ILLIAD; Harriet Winiger, library assistant (reserves and student training); Barbara Brown, interlibrary loan assistant; Melissa Jackson, interlibrary loan librarian; and Rob Jones, evening assistant and e-reserves. Among topics touched on were:

- ▶ Amy observed the overview of circulation duties, layout and workflow. She noticed some differences in how student responsibilities were handled.
- ▶ Student training was another important topic. Amy discussed AASU's student training method. This issue was important for both Harriet and Amy. Although they shared some similar training methods, Amy was able to share her experiences with LC Easy, a computer training program for shelf reading and LC classification. Harriet and Ann were interested in this program after hearing about it.
- ▶ Amy worked with Barbara on receiving and processing ILL requests. Amy was able to compare the two programs and point out the benefits of using ILLIAD to improve paperwork and workflow.
- ▶ Amy observed AASU's hard copy reserves and e-reserves. She noted the different method of using these reserve components and providing access for patrons.
- ▶ She discussed the differences in how each institution handled GIL Express requests. Amy learned a different method for tracking GIL requests and ensuring that GIL requests were not lost in shipping.

- ▶ Melissa was able to show Amy AASU's interface on OCLC and their system for borrowing in interlibrary loan. Melissa showed Amy how she collects and uses borrowing statistics to shape collection development.
- ▶ Amy met colleagues from other AASU library departments in her morning session. She had an especially fruitful visit with Richard Horah, media services. Richard was interested in a Trading Libraries visit to ASU.
- ▶ Amy and Ann discussed different methods for tracking circulation statistics. Amy was able to reflect on ASU's current circulation statistics and their usefulness for circulation workflow.
- ▶ Amy learned ways to market for improvement in students' awareness of the library and its importance on campus.

This run-down shows how this program helps address the unique problems and scenarios faced by staff working in different departments. Amy and Carol found they shared some common experiences as well.

- ▶ They both found it to be a very energizing experience, and they both came back with new ideas for performing and implementing common procedures.
- ▶ They both now suffer from "new library building envy." Both AASU's Lane Library and GCSU's Ina Dillard Russell Library have benefited from extensive rebuilding and remodeling. Both agreed they could channel this envy positively by serving on building committees if the opportunity arose.
- ▶ While they agreed that they came away with ideas to improve certain areas, this opportunity helped remind them of areas in which their own libraries were excellent.
- ▶ They both enjoyed the opportunity to network and collaborate with colleagues at other institutions.

Suggestions for participating individuals

- ▶ Go with the flow. Don't have a set of concrete expectations. This program is a good example of experiential learning. Participants need to be "in the moment rather than comparing what they are experiencing to what they were told they would experience."⁸
- ▶ Conversely, it doesn't hurt to have a list of questions written down. Participants are there to absorb as much information as possible, and a list will help make sure you have addressed everything in which you are interested. A site that can help you brainstorm about your list of questions is Quintessential Careers

Informational Interviewing Tutorial http://www.quintcareers.com/information_interview.html.

Suggestions for the success of Trading Libraries

- ▶ There needs to be more publicity. Directors may be aware of the program, but knowledge of it needs to trickle down to department heads and staff. Hosts need to be aware that they might be tapped to participate before they get a call from their director to let them know they had a Trading Libraries participant on the way.
- ▶ While participants' institutions will bear the travel costs, more collaboration needs to take place to keep these costs down. As an example, could participants be housed at host dormitory facilities?
- ▶ There should to be more dissemination of results and assessment. The guidelines could be expanded to include a requirement that participants report formally on their experiences to their libraries and to whichever individual or committee takes responsibility for the overall administration of the Trading Libraries Program.

Conclusions

The staff of Reese Library felt that this was a beneficial program, one in which they were proud to participate, and they would be pleased to advocate strongly on its behalf. The program offered participants a chance to network with colleagues and build on the successes of other libraries. It provides an opportunity to reflect on issues faced within their library and learn about opportunities for improvement on these issues. The Trading Libraries experience is a great opportunity for colleagues to support one another and build professional relationships.

However, in order for it to soar and grow, it needs to avoid what happened to the similar programs mounted by the TLA and the MAALL. Communications have been exchanged with these organizations to ascertain the status of the programs they initiated in the 1980s. At the time of writing, neither program was flourishing. Mr. Scott Cohen, Staff Development Committee, Tennessee Libraries Association, does not believe their program survived beyond 1986⁹. Mr. Brian Striman, past president of MAALL, was kind enough to do some digging for signs of the MAALL program.¹⁰

As of 2003, the Staff Development program had become part of the grants committee oversight, but no applications had been received since 2003. To quote Mr. Striman, the program "barely has a pulse." For Trading Libraries to soar and become a fixture in Georgia, there will need to be aggressive campaigning for support and participants. ►►

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2. Callie McGinnis e-mail to author July 25, 2007.
3. Callie McGinnis e-mail to author August 23, 2007.
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9. Scott Cohen, e-mail to author, August 16, 2007.
10. Brian D. Stirman, e-mail to author, August 24, 2007.



Georgia Perimeter College
Dunwoody Campus

Library & Information Science Technology

Our LIST program may be for you!

The Library & Information Science Technology (LIST) program offers an academically-based curriculum. Designed for both practicing library support staff and college students with an interest in the field of library science, the program features small classes, individual attention, and lots of hands-on learning experiences.

There are two tracks:

- * An Associate of Applied Science degree
- * A Certificate of Achievement

Required LIST courses leading to the A.A.S. degree include Introduction to Libraries and Information Science, Acquisitions and Technical Processing, Public Services in Libraries & Information Centers, and an Internship. For a complete description of the program, go to <http://www.gpc.edu/~acadaff/cat/programs/LIST.html>. The courses are taught by members of the GPC library faculty and practicing librarians from metropolitan Atlanta.

Courses are offered in person & will soon be offered online.

For program information, please contact: Dr. Stephen M. Koplan
LIST Program Coordinator
770-274-5088
skoplan@gpc.edu

For admissions information, please contact: Jennifer Taylor
Admissions Counselor
770-274-5204
jtaylor@gpc.edu

*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

GPLS wins Mellon Award for Technology Collaboration

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has named the Georgia Public Library Service as one of 10 recipients of the second annual Mellon Awards for Technology Collaboration. The \$50,000 grant recognizes GPLS for the development and release of the Evergreen open-source library automation system.

The Mellon Awards honor not-for-profit organizations for leadership in the collaborative development of open-source software tools with particular application to higher education and cultural heritage not-for-profit activities. The awards were presented Dec. 10 by Sir Timothy Berners-Lee, director of the World Wide Web Consortium and inventor of the World Wide Web, at the Fall Task Force meeting of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) in Washington, D.C.

Accepting the award on behalf of GPLS were Dr. Lamar Veatch, state librarian; David Singleton, deputy state librarian; Julie Walker, assistant state librarian for support services and strategic initiatives; Elizabeth McKinney de Garcia, PINES program director; and Brad LaJeunesse, consultant and leader of the Evergreen software development team.

"Evergreen is a most significant milestone in the life of Georgia's public libraries," said Veatch, "and the



From left: LaJeunesse, Singleton, Veatch, Berners-Lee, Garcia and Walker (Photo courtesy Andrew W. Mellon Foundation)

Mellon Foundation's award today is high recognition, indeed, for all those involved in its development. A cooperative library system like PINES is a miracle of public library collaboration and the realization of a true statewide library card. The Evergreen software that now powers PINES is yet another aspect of this shared vision for a sustained, self-directed, library management system. It is one that permits PINES to develop and grow its services in ways that best meet the needs of the libraries and the publics they serve. We are honored and grateful to the Mellon Foundation for recognizing the potential of Evergreen with this award."

After an international public nomination process, the recipients of

this year's awards were selected by the MATC Award Committee, which included Berners-Lee; Mitchell Baker, CEO of Mozilla Corp.; John Seely Brown, former chief scientist for Xerox Corp.; Vinton G. Cerf, vice president and chief Internet evangelist of Google Inc.; John Gage, chief researcher and director of the Science Office of Sun Microsystems Inc.; and Tim O'Reilly, founder and CEO, O'Reilly Media.

The Mellon Foundation is a not-for-profit philanthropic organization with offices in New York City and Princeton, N.J. For more information on this year's awardees, prizes, and projects for which they were recognized, visit the CNI Web site at www.cni.org. ►►

Georgia Southern University news and notes

Henderson Library celebrated Constitution Day Sept. 7 with a reception in its atrium featuring refreshments, educational displays and video, a lecture by a political science professor and staff people in period dress mingling with the guests.



On Oct. 4, in a symposium sponsored by the library, four nationally renowned authorities addressed "Scholarly Communication in the 21st Century: Trends and Issues" in a free forum in the Russell Union

Ballroom. The panel included James Neal, vice president for information services and university librarian at Columbia University; Bob Stein, research director for the Institute for the Future of the Book; Ann M. Bartow, associate professor of law at the University of South Carolina; and James Pringle, vice president of product development and government markets for Thomson Scientific. The four responded to questions about the most pressing challenges for access to and preservation of content, as well as challenges being created for national and international legal systems by emerging scholarly communication technologies. The entire two-hour session may be viewed at <http://library.georgiasouthern.edu/support/centennialforum.html>.

From Nov. 10-18, Henderson Library Dean W. Bede Mitchell traveled in Russia among a delegation of 19 academic librarians sponsored by the People-to-People Ambassadors Program of LAMA, of which he is president. They met with counterparts in the Russian Library Association and enjoyed discussions comparing library conditions here and in Russia. Dr. Mitchell made several presentations on Henderson Library's automated retrieval storage system. »»

Georgia Southwestern State news

The James Earl Carter Library hosted two book signings this fall. On Sept. 12, renowned author June Hall McCash visited GSW and spoke at a convocation. Following the convocation, the library hosted a book signing, where McCash signed copies of her books and visited with the GSW community. She is the author, co-author and editor of six books and numerous articles, including *The Jekyll Island Cottage Colony* and *Jekyll Island's Early Years*.



President of Georgia Southwestern State University Dr. Kendall Blanchard, professor of English Dr. Gabriele Stauf, author June Hall McCash and Dean of the Library Vera Weisskopf

On Oct. 10, the library also hosted a book signing for Jack Riggs, the author of *When the Finch Rises*, a book that various English classes read for the fall semester. Riggs teaches creative writing and film studies at Georgia Perimeter College in Atlanta.

The library also kicked off the "Lunches at the Library Fall Program" with a Banned Books Celebration on Oct. 4. Members of the faculty, staff and student population of GSW participated in the event. Readings included *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold, *Heather Has Two Mommies* by Leslea Newman, *Ulysses* by James Joyce and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. »»

LaGrange College honors Shepherd

On Oct. 27, LaGrange College honored Dr. Sonya Gaither Shepherd with the Wall of Outstanding Alumni Award, which is given to alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professions and communities. Shepherd graduated from LaGrange in 1993 with a bachelor of science degree in computer science. She went on to earn her master of science in library service from Clark-Atlanta University and her Ed.D. in educational administration from Georgia Southern University. Since 1995, she has worked at the Zach S. Henderson Library at Georgia Southern University, where today she serves as a tenured associate professor and associate department head of information services. Shepherd is an active member of the Georgia Southern faculty and has served on the Black Green Task Force, as a faculty senate representative, on the Academic Standards Committee, the SACS Reaffirmation Team and Governance Task Force. Over the years, Shepherd has received numerous grants and recognitions, including being named a Frye Leadership Fellow in 2005. »»

'Classic Rock Cares' at Parks Memorial

Parks Memorial Library, Richland, has received musical instruments from the John Entwistle Foundation for a program to promote music education among children. The library now has an electric guitar, bass guitar, keyboard and amplifiers as part of the Check-Out Music program.

This past summer, the John Entwistle Foundation launched an eight city tour known as Classic Rock Cares. This was to be the first concert tour designed specifically to raise funds for the foundation's mission of free music education and instruments through the public library system. The program known as Check-Out Music invites anyone to come into the library and try out a guitar, bass or keyboard. The idea is to offer children an alternative to less desirable activities. We might even discover a musical virtuoso in the process.

The classic rockers that took part in the tour were Brian Johnson and Cliff Williams of the rock super group AC/DC; Mark Farner, formerly of Grand Funk Railroad; Joe Lynn Turner, former singer for Deep Purple and Rainbow; and Steve Luongo of the John Entwistle Band. Guest appearances at random shows included Robin Zander of Cheap Trick, Scotti Hill of Skid Row, Buck Dharma of Blue Oyster Cult and Eddie Money. Even comedian and "Saturday Night Live" alumnus Jim Breuer and Coach Jon Gruden of the Tampa Bay Bucks joined in for the fun.

Shortly after the tour concluded, Pepper Weldin of Parks Memorial Public Library in Richland, e-mailed the foundation. Weldin read an article in *Rolling Stone* about the foundation's mission and the tour. She asked if the foundation would consider her library for a program. Pepper's e-mail went on to say how much the community's children would benefit from this program. Her passionate cry in the name of Richland's youth was enough to convince the foundation to spring into action and begin shipping instruments to her location. These programs are free to libraries once they have been approved.

The Check-Out Music in Richland program is now up and running and invites everyone to visit the library and pick up an instrument. The program will continue to grow over time with the addition of recording software, more instruments and visits by music teachers and others in the music field for lectures and lessons.

The John Entwistle Foundation was named for the late bassist of the rock group The Who. It was founded by John's longtime friend and drummer Steve Luongo. In addition to the primary mission of free music education, the foundation has also used live concerts to raise funds for disaster relief and animal welfare. To find out how you can get involved or to make a donation visit the foundation's Web site at www.johnentwistle.org or call 239-482-6880. ►►

\$1 million to purchase genealogy materials

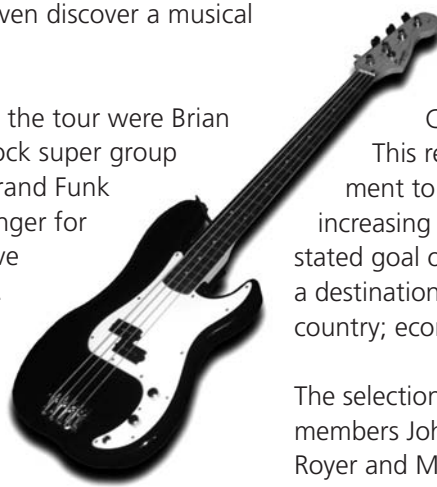
The Muscogee County Library board of trustees has earmarked \$1 million of the \$6.1 million that remained from a 1999 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax that paid for the construction of the Columbus Public Library (Main Branch) for the purchase of materials for the Genealogy and Local History Department of the Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library System. This represents an important step in our commitment to enhancing our genealogical services. By increasing our available materials, CVRLS is closer to the stated goal of establishing the Genealogy Department as a destination site that draws people from all across the country; economic development at its finest!

The selection process was overseen by genealogy staff members John Lyles, Ginny Stola, Kathy Turton, Dalton Royer and Myra Starling. First, staff concentrated on the purchase of county-level vital and court records from Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. They also concentrated their efforts on records of the American Revolution, the Civil War and of Native Americans held by the National Archives.

Next, it was decided to fill in the gaps in the collection. This included actions such as purchasing missing volumes of serialized monographs and fulfilling the departmental "wish list" that could not be purchased under previous budget allocations. Geographically, these materials cover the American South and the Eastern Seaboard.

Then, the reference and foreign sections were bolstered with the purchase of "how to" manuals and various Irish, Scottish, Italian and German resource materials.

All totaled, we estimate the addition of over 8,000 print titles and 25,000 reels of microfilm to our current collection of 14,000 print titles and 6,000 reels of microfilm. Materials are expected to arrive in late November 2007 and continue until the order is filled by the end of November 2008. ►►



Hall County Library news and notes

The Friends of the Hall County Library held their annual meeting and program on Nov. 13. Antiquarian book dealer Cliff Graubart gave a brief presentation on identifying valuable books. Following Mr. Graubart's talk, he offered appraisals of books brought in by program attendees, a sort of "antique road show" for books.

The Friends of the Library were also honored during Friends of the Library Week with an appreciation reception thrown on Oct. 24 by library staff members.

The Hall County Library System will receive over \$7,500 from the AT&T Foundation to provide new computer

resources at the Blackshear Place branch. The equipment will be housed in the newly created young adult area of the library branch, which is being developed to increase library appeal to this age group.

"This grant will help us upgrade our hardware and computer seating for the Oakwood branch library," said Library Director Adrian Mixson. "This will provide teenagers with their own personal space, encouraging social networking and educational use of the library's resources for homework assignments."

The grant comes through the AT&T Excelsior program, which has provided over 2,500 technology grants since 2002. This is the first year that AT&T has expanded the program into the Southeast. ►►

Georgia Gwinnett

Continued from page 18

the design firm selection process, this group will continue to be a resource pool from which to draw valuable information pertaining to the community's desires and needs for the building.

The new library will incorporate concepts and services that have been successful in other facilities, such as a learning "commons," with services available from reference librarians, professionals from Student Support Services and the college's Center for Teaching Excellence. Our goal here is that the library will become a learning center for the entire college community. Plans call for study rooms of all sizes, from alcoves for individual study to large group study areas. A new type of planned study space is what we are calling smart study rooms, rooms that are equipped with all of the classroom technology so that the students can utilize those resources when they are working on group projects. Additionally, plans call for presentation rooms where students can practice presentations for their

classes alone or in groups. All of this will take place with the ubiquitous connectivity that is becoming the norm.

The new library building is slated to be a state-of-the-art facility, incorporating all of the latest design and technology concepts available and feasible. But to say that leaves one somewhat in a pedestrian mood these days as that expression has all but become mundane. What is state of the art when the very stasis is now dynamic? With change the norm in this Heraclitean world and obsolescence the operative concept, flexibility in design becomes paramount. While a certain minimalist approach that makes the building as adaptable as possible might be the best avenue to follow, there are certain design criteria that are still valid. These include clarity and boldness in architectural statement, symmetry with the overall campus design and master plan, an eye toward expandability, avoidance of design clichés that easily date a structure and, most importantly, flexibility.

Last but not least, though often not mentioned, is beauty. The library building is to be the intellectual heart of the campus. If it is to be successful, then aesthetics must be a living concept in its design and implementation. The design of a building communicates the meaning of that place, and in an institution of higher learning, the importance of the aesthetic dimension is paramount. All one has to do is compare an inspiring campus of Georgian or Gothic elegance to one that has been poorly planned and funded to understand the importance of structures that communicate a culture of learning. The library building at GGC will play an integral and pivotal roll in this larger picture. With the construction of a library that inspires and excites, the college will have a center that gravitates learning and intellectual activity for the entire campus. In essence, it will be a place students and faculty want to be in the action of learning. ►►

Cultivate your love for libraries this Valentine's Day!

GEORGIA LIBRARY DAY 2008

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

*Sponsored by The Georgia Association for Instructional Technology,
The Georgia Library Association and The Georgia Library Media Association*

8:45 a.m.

Registration, coffee and juice
Floyd Building

(*"Twin Towers," 20th floor,
West Tower*)

9:15 a.m.

Remarks from Georgia
legislative guests
Floyd Building

10:45 a.m.

Visit the Capitol
Georgia State Capitol

(*Please contact your legislators prior to Feb. 14
and let them know you will be attending.*)

9:15 a.m.

Welcome – GLA President
Floyd Building

10:00 a.m.

Comments from the library
community and organizations
Floyd Building

11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Box lunch with your
legislators
Floyd Building

Georgia Library Day 2007

Registration Form (Please complete one form for each registrant.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Library Name: _____

My Library is in Georgia Senate District(s)*: _____

My Library is in Georgia House District(s)*: _____

*For assistance, visit the Secretary of State Web site at <http://www.sos.state.ga.us/cgi-bin/locator.asp>

Please enclose:

Registration form and \$30 per person. Make check(s) payable to GLA, and reference "Registration" in note section. Mail payment to: Georgia Library Association: P.O. Box 793, Rex, GA 30273. **Your payment must be received by February 1, 2007!**

Questions? Contact Gordon Baker at 678-466-4325 or gordonbaker@clayton.edu.

VISIT [HTTP://GLA.GEORGIALIBRARIES.ORG](http://GLA.GEORGIALIBRARIES.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Off the SHELF

The Georgia Library Quarterly reviews books on aspects of life in Georgia and the South, including history, literature, politics, education and genealogy. Materials written by Southern authors or published by regional publishers may also be considered, as well as those on libraries and librarianship.

Sarah McGhee, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Chestatee Regional Library System, smcghee@chestateelibrary.org

Teresa Pacheco, Off the Shelf Co-editor, Northeast Georgia Health System, tere711@comcast.net

See more Off the Shelf reviews at http://glq.georgialibraries.org/glq_bookreviews.htm

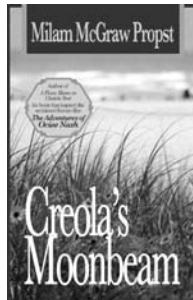
FICTION

Creola's Moonbeam by Milam McGraw Propst (BelleBooks, 2006, ISBN 0-9768760-3-5, \$14.95).

Atlanta author Milam McGraw Propst employs the device of story-within-a-story to paint a portrait of an author at midlife, struggling with writer's block while at the same time looking back at the events of her childhood and her life as a wife and mother.

Having thrown her latest manuscript in the trash, Honey Newberry has retreated to her favorite spot on the Florida coast, vowing to take a vacation from writing. Events conspire against her, however, as the spirit of her beloved nanny Creola seems to be everywhere — even embodied in Beatrice, the free-spirited new friend Honey meets on the beach. Memories come flooding back, and Honey commits them to paper. The present-day narrative moves at a leisurely pace, interspersed with an assortment of domestic vignettes from the past. Honey gradually begins to embrace Beatrice's zest for life and to come to terms with her own life passages, including her relationship to her craft as a writer. The gentle homespun humor and depictions of Southern family life will appeal to readers who enjoy the *Mossy Creek* series and Karin Gillespie's "Bottom Dollar Girl" books. Consider purchasing for public library collections where demand is high for clean, down-home stories about women "of a certain age." »»

— Reviewed by **Sarah Trowbridge**
Fayette County Public Library



The Meat and Spirit Plan by Selah Saterstrom (Coffee House Press, September 2007, ISBN: 1566892015 ISBN: 978-1566892018, \$14.95).

Southern fiction isn't always moonlight and magnolias, as Selah Saterstrom demonstrates in her gut-wrenching novel, *The Meat and Spirit Plan*. Dark humor and sexually explicit paragraphs interspersed with terse surrealistic poetry frame the devastating coming-of-age experiences of a girl from the fictional town of Beau Repose, Mississippi. The young main character, daughter of a drug-addled and mostly absent mother, cannot wait to plunge headfirst into a pathetic cycle of drugs, liquor, sex and more drugs and sex. The dismal underbelly of Beau Repose is the girl's favorite stomping ground as she pursues a path that seems certain to destroy her. She is sent to reform school where she fails to reform, but even so, she earns a scholarship to study, of all things, theology in Scotland. There Saterstrom dangles in front of the reader a glimmer of hope for the anti-heroine of *Meat* in the form of a love affair with an ex-con. Unfortunately the girl discovers that years of self-abuse have ravaged her body. Violently ill, she returns home after receiving more bad news about her mother and is immediately hospitalized. In a near-death state, she looks forward to morphine drips and unusual nocturnal visits from a male nurse who may or may not actually be the janitor. At long last on the mend, she decides, "I don't know what I'm doing. It's liberating and depressing. I could move to Hawaii, but once there, what would I do? I've got to come up with a plan." She



cleans up an old typewriter and sits down to write. Raunchy and relentless, this book is not likely to be a hit with the best-sellers crowd in libraries with small budgets. The right audience for this title from the indie Coffee House Press will be readers who are clamoring for edgy, experimental, no-holds-barred fiction. ►►

—Reviewed by **Teresa Pacheco**
Northeast Georgia Medical Center Library

A Gentle Rain by Deborah Smith
(BelleBooks, Inc., 2007; ISBN 978-0-9768760-7-6, 16.95).

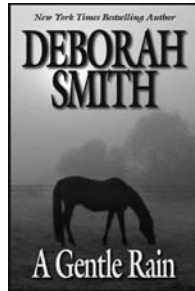
Deborah Smith delivers another heartwarming sophisticated work of romantic fiction in her latest novel, *A Gentle Rain*. The story alternates between the points of view of the two main characters, Kara Whittenbrook and Ben Thocco. Kara, a New England heiress in her early 30s, is struggling with the deaths of her parents. Soon after their deaths, Kara is stunned with the news that she was adopted. On a journey to know her birth parents, Mac and Lily, Kara sets off to the Florida ranch where they now live. When Kara arrives at the ranch, she is surprised to find out that it is a special needs ranch. There she meets the owner of the ranch: single, warm-hearted and self-sacrificing Ben Thocco, who is caring for his own brother, Joey, also mentally challenged. Kara begins to discover love in various ways from all of the characters in this story. The bonds that are created while Kara is at the ranch are a touching account of human kindness at its best. Deborah Smith does a magnificent job of bringing to life both the characters and locations of the novel. Set primarily in northern Florida near Orlando, the places discussed will be familiar to anyone who has ever lived in the South. Deborah Smith's latest novel is very much along the lines of her other books in style and ambiance. *A Gentle Rain* would certainly be a wonderful addition to any wholesome contemporary romance or fiction collection. ►►

—Reviewed by **Carolann Lee Curry**
Mercer University Medical Library

NONFICTION

Civil War Weather in Virginia by Robert K. Krick (The University of Alabama Press, 2007; ISBN 978-0-8173-1577-1, \$39.95).

Inspired by Douglas Southall Freeman's exhortation for Civil War historians to provide a meteorological register of the War Between the



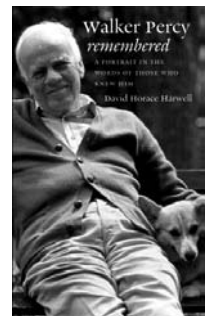
States, Robert K. Krick, himself a prolific Civil War historian (and former chief historian of the battlefield parks of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania), provides a rich reference source on the weather conditions experienced by armies engaged in the tumultuous Northern Virginia theater of war. Union and Confederate armies sought and menaced each others' capitals, Richmond and Washington, D.C., on this ground. Krick draws up weather charts from October 1860 through June 1865. Prior to the establishment of the National Weather Service by a resolution signed by President U. S. Grant in 1870, historians have long relied on soldiers' diaries, memoirs and letters to describe actual battlefield meteorological conditions, the significance of which can hardly be underestimated in 19th century combat. A heavy rainstorm or even hot, dry, dusty weather could be just as potent as field artillery in determining the outcome of a battle. Krick's great reference coup is his transcription of the meticulous meteorological recordings of the Reverend C. K. Mackee of Georgetown, D.C., into monthly charts that include daily temperature and precipitation readings at 7 a.m., 2 p.m. and 9 p.m. The charts, juxtaposed with local newspaper and soldiers' observations (e.g., "it was very hot," "a tremendous storm moved in," "today's been cold and miserable," "muddy roads ... The weather was cold with much snow and rain") make for surprisingly interesting reading. The book is a unique reference source for Civil War buffs and professional historians. ►►

—Reviewed by **James Taylor**
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library

Walker Percy Remembered: A Portrait in the Words of Those Who Knew Him

by David Horace Harwell (University of North Carolina Press, 2006, 978-0-8078-3039-0, \$24.95).

Southern novelist Walker Percy's early years were marked by tragedy. Both his grandfather and father committed suicide, and his mother died in a car accident, which some think may have been a third suicide. It isn't surprising, then, that Percy's protagonists always seemed to be on a search for the meaning of life. He didn't begin his career as a writer, however. At the urging of his uncle, Percy went to medical school, but when he contracted tuberculosis at the age of 26, his medical career was cut short, and he spent the next two years in a sanatorium. During this time of recuperation, Walker began to read the works of philosophers and novelists, which began his lifelong quest to make sense out of the strange, tragic events of his life. Shortly



thereafter, he established himself as a writer, winning the National Book Award for his first published novel, *The Moviegoer*, in 1961. Using an oral history technique, author David Harwell provides a glimpse into the parts of Percy's character not otherwise covered in previous biographies. Through his extensive interviews with 13 individuals who knew Walker Percy, including Percy's brothers, his housekeeper, former teachers, community members and his lifelong friend author Shelby Foote, rich tapestry is woven. We learn of his involvement in civil rights, his role in his community, his conversion to Catholicism, his spirituality, his struggles with depression and his unwavering quest for meaning in life. He was a quiet, private person, not seeking the limelight, who was often surprised when his literary accomplishments were acknowledged publicly. Because Harwell allowed the narrators to talk about themselves as well as their relationship with Percy, some interviews tend to wander from the focus of the subject; however, the final result is a collection of remembrances that serve as an important complement to the longer, more comprehensive biographies of Walker Percy. The book is recommended for academic libraries and especially for Percy fans. »

— Reviewed by **Pat Borck**
Macon State College Library

Blood & Irony: Southern White Women's Narratives of the Civil War, 1861-1927 by Sarah E. Gardner (University of North Carolina Press, 2004; ISBN 978-0-8078-5767-0, \$19.95).

Historical perspectives on the Civil War and its aftermath were reflected in and shaped by the writings of Southern white women. Sarah E. Gardner traces the progression of women's themes from journals and letters written during the war through postwar histories and biographies. She covers the efforts of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to influence women's writing and shows how idealistic "Lost Cause" accounts gave way over time to less romantic views. Gardner examines in detail Margaret Mitchell's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gone With the Wind* (1936) as a landmark work with national appeal and Caroline Gordon's *None Shall Look Back* (1937) as an early attempt at a Civil War epic. Gardner places women's writings in the context of national cultural and political movements as well as in seminal works by male authors and brings to life the personalities of the women who helped fashion postwar Southern culture. Scholarly in depth, *Blood & Irony* is also engaging, good-humored and highly readable. Includes bibliography and illustrations. Highly recommended for



academic libraries and collections focusing on the Civil War, Southern history or Southern women. »

— Reviewed by **Maureen Puffer-Rothenberg**
Valdosta State University

Community Journalism: Relentlessly Local, 3rd ed. by Jock Lauterer (University of North Carolina Press, 2006; ISBN 978-0-5629-1, \$29.95).

Lost in the world of megamedia emphasizing "the culture" and international events is the fact that most of us still have a need for local news. Lauterer's book is a combination of passionate hymn and textbook on that subject. He is a former small-town publisher in North Carolina, now teaching at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism. Twenty-four chapters divide the territory into smaller segments: news, sports, graphics, ethics, "speed bumps and troubleshooting" among them. Lauterer defines "community journalism" as those publications under 50,000 circulation within a definable area. These dominate the American landscape: 9,104 out of 9,321 newspapers fit that definition. Smaller newspapers are more likely to be locally owned, and there are many more small newspapers than large ones in every state. Most offer their news and ads on a Web site. The dynamics of facing and serving those you cover is at the heart of all this. Lauterer is in love with editors who cover things that the metro dailies don't have time for: Little League, Boy Scouts, biggest pumpkin in the county, fundraisers and government. There is a special tension, sometimes positive, sometimes negative, between readers and editors at that level. This is primarily a textbook, though anyone will find it useful and enlightening. His chattiness and informal writing style were exasperating at times, and the photos make every small town look like the set of "Mayberry RFD." But it is heartening to know that there are still many devoted to serving the news needs of smaller communities where many of us live. »

— Reviewed by **Wallace B. Eberhard**
University of Georgia (Emeritus)



Georgia Quilts: Piecing Together a History edited by Anita Zaleski Weinraub (University of Georgia Press, 2006; ISBN 0-8203-2850-2, \$34.95).

In 1990, the Georgia Quilt Project (GQP) set out to create a written and photographic history of Georgia quilts. Over the span

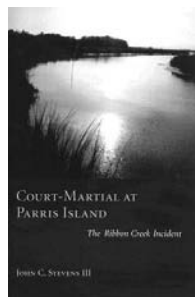


of three years, the GQP held 76 Quilt History Days, where a core group of 90 volunteers were able to document and photograph more than 10,000 quilts. Georgians from all walks of life participated in the project, many of them sharing stories about the quilts and the quiltmakers. The book opens with an introduction outlining the methodology the GQP used to document the quilts. The next chapter provides a historical background, giving the reader a general overview of local and national events to show how they influenced quilting in the state. In the next few chapters, the editor and others delved deeper into specific topics mentioned in the historical background chapter. Beginning with early quilts, defined as quilts made prior to 1861, the book continues with essays discussing quilts made by Civil War survivors, the history and role of King Cotton and textiles in Georgia quilting, and African-American quilting. Also included is an essay on the quilts of Harriet Powers, a former slave whose quilts are now in the Smithsonian Museum of American History and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Though many quilts were made as gifts or for special occasions, some were created out of need and were used daily. These quilts were made using whatever was available, even feed, cotton and flour sacks. An essay on Georgia Quilting guilds serves as a great resource for anyone interested in joining one, and, lastly, an essay on the Olympic Gift Quilts illustrates how the project, which began as a simple idea, became an international celebration and recognition of Georgia quilting. Rich and vibrant illustrations fill the pages of this well-written, well-researched book. Appendices providing a statistical summary of the documented quilts and a listing of the Quilt History Days are included. *Georgia Quilts* not only serves as a history of Georgia quilts, it also presents an all-inclusive examination of the lives of the quiltmakers. Quilters, historians and genealogists alike will enjoy this book. Recommended for all libraries. ►►

— Reviewed by **Tamika Maddox Strong**
DeKalb County Public Library

Court-Martial at Parris Island: The Ribbon Creek Incident by John C. Stevens III (The University of South Carolina Press, 2007; ISBN 978-1-57003-703-0, \$19.95).

Traditional Marine Corps discipline turned to tragedy in the swamps of Parris Island, South Carolina, on the night of April 8, 1956, when Staff Sergeant Matthew McKeon led Platoon 71 into the receding tidal waters of Ribbon Creek on a disciplinary exercise. In darkness and chaos, six Marine recruits were drowned in minutes, and the attention of the nation



weighed heavily upon McKeon and the tough training practices of the Marine Corps. The legal and political wrangling during McKeon's court-martial, combined with unprecedented media exposure, rocked the historic foundations of the Marine Corps and forced changes in methods used to train U.S. Marines. The final verdict devastated McKeon's military career. Comprehensively researched and clearly documented, Stevens offers an authoritative and objective perspective on the events of that tragic night, weaving personal testimonies from survivors of Platoon 71 with official military and legal records. Writing as a former trial court judge and 1957 Parris Island recruit, the author provides valuable legal and military experience to assist the reader in understanding the details surrounding the events of the Ribbon Creek tragedy and ensuing trial. This very readable chronicle of a significant event in the history of the Marine Corps recounts in detail the fast-paced legal maneuvering during the court-martial, including excerpts from official court transcripts. Engaging and focused in style, Stevens enhances the details of the unfolding legal proceedings with a candid portrayal of the individual personalities involved. Perhaps one of this work's greatest merits is that the author does not endeavor to guide the reader to a specific conclusion. Facts are presented and various perspectives are considered, but ultimately the reader is left to ponder the events, the judgment and the consequences. The narrative is supplemented with captioned black and white photographs and maps, a bibliography and an index. Recommended for academic and public libraries. ►►

— Reviewed by **Geoffrey P. Timms**
Jack Tarver Library, Mercer University

Haunted Savannah: The Official Guidebook to Savannah Haunted History Tour 2007 by James Caskey (Bonaventure Books, 2006, ISBN 0-9724224-2-0, \$13.95).



Savannah is one of those coastal Southern towns with its fair share of ghostly tales. In this guidebook, an accompaniment to the haunted history tours of Savannah, the author presents histories of reportedly haunted locations. Conjectures as to the cause of the activity and personal recollections of those who have witnessed Savannah's seeming overabundance of paranormal phenomena for themselves are presented for many locations. These locations include old homes, businesses and hotels, along with graveyards and town squares. Tales dating back to Savannah's early English settlers, slave labor, Civil and Revolutionary war experiences, and duels pepper this

volume and give the reader a sense of the past of this grand city. Photos are included of supposed paranormal activities caught on camera, but the overabundance of similar photos in popular TV shows and online render them almost silly at this point. Inclusion of maps, an index, and unadulterated photos of the properties discussed could add to the usefulness of this tourist guide. Some of the historical tales presented are truly creepy, but the author admits that many of the firsthand experiences conveyed here may be intended to increase tourism at certain establishments. *Haunted Savannah* is an immediately relevant source for those who have taken or wish to take a tour of the haunted spots in Savannah that have been explored in such venues as the Travel Channel. Ghost tourism is a big deal in a city voted the most haunted city in America on the "Scariest Places on Earth" television series. This may be a dubious honor, but it is one that Savannah seems to take not only in stride but with pride. Other books detailing Savannah's haunted locations exist, though this volume claims to be the "most up-to-date book on sale today." It is up to the reader to decide which guide is the most useful. This guidebook is recommended for readers with an interest in regional travel and unique sightseeing opportunities or for those with an interest in the paranormal and Savannah history. »»

— Reviewed by **Julie Poole**
Mercer University

Imprinting the South: Southern Printmakers and Their Images of the Region 1920s – 1940s by Lynn Barstis Williams (University of Alabama Press, 2007, 978-0-8173-1560-3, 0-8173-1560-8, \$39.95).

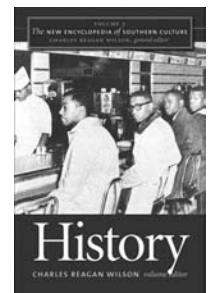


Author Lynn Barstis Williams explains in her preface to *Imprinting the South* that she hopes the book will "be a contribution to the emerging field of Southern studies." Her effort will indeed be considered valuable to anyone interested in Southern artists and their work. Williams begins this engaging book with an extensive history of printmaking in the South, concentrating on specific regions and individuals. She discusses at length the subjects that Southern printmakers have historically chosen to depict, such as the natural world, the architecture of the region and the activities in which Southerners traditionally have engaged. Williams' introductory accounts and discussions give the reader a valuable historical context in which to place the prints and printmakers included in the book. The printmakers chosen by Williams are artists who lived or traveled in the American South from the 1920s through the 1940s and

who depicted the region in their works. Each printmaker (60 artists in all) receives an individual entry, which includes a one-page discussion of the artist's life and work, as well as a black and white reproduction of one of the artist's prints. While the artists included may have shared a common geography, the images of the printmakers' works display a wide diversity of styles. Many artists achieved delicate and subtle tones using lithography and etching techniques while others employed wood and linoleum cuts for bold chiaroscuro effects. A glossary of printmaking techniques is included for readers who desire technical information on how the various types of prints were produced. Williams provides an appendix of artists connected to the South and lists institutions that own at least three of their prints. A valuable resource for both scholars and general readers, *Imprinting the South* is recommended for public and academic libraries. »»

— Reviewed by **Edward Whitley**
Georgia College & State University Library

The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture Volume 3: History edited by Charles Reagan Wilson (University of North Carolina Press, 2006; ISBN 978-0-8078-5691-8; \$19.95).



The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture expands and updates the original Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, published in 1989 as a one-volume, 1,656-page compendium of regional history, politics, art, lore and manners. Developed by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, the new work is being published in 24 volumes, each devoted to one aspect of Southern life. Rich in diversity on many levels, *History* moves away from a mere North-South comparison to the South's role in the international economy, America's frontier mystique and its foreign policy; the region as part of the Atlantic world; and the South as a multiethnic community with internal diversity. *History* begins with two introductions, one for the encyclopedia and one for this volume, and an overview article by Wilson. A series of alphabetized thematic articles follows, from Abolition to World War II, and includes Populism, Indian Eras, Globalization, Sharecropping and Tenancy, Slave Revolts, the Civil Rights Movement and others. The volume concludes with a section of briefer entries. Most of these are thumbnail biographies of individuals (Jimmy Carter, Medgar Evers, Jeb Stuart, the abolitionist Grimké sisters), but here also are organizations, agencies, and groups (Confederate Veterans, the Congress of Racial Equality) and an assortment of other entries (the Voting Rights Act,

Jamestown). Each entry is signed by its author and followed by source notes. Many readers will miss the distinction between the two sections; there are no headings to mark the division. The volume is well-indexed, but there are no cross-references to the other volumes, a lack that limits the usefulness of an otherwise excellent resource. The encyclopedia is being published in paperback as well as hardcover, which will make the 24-volume set more affordable. Recommended for all academic libraries and most public libraries. »»

— Reviewed by **Vanessa Cowie**
Forsyth County Public Library

Return to Good and Evil: Flannery O'Connor's Response to Nihilism by Henry T. Edmondson III; contributor Marion Montgomery (Lexington Books, 1st Paperback Edition 2005; ISBN 0739111051, \$27.95).

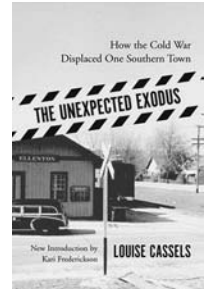
Professor Henry T. Edmondson III has done a great service for readers of Flannery O'Connor in his book *Return to Good and Evil: Flannery O'Connor's Response to Nihilism*. He has gone where so many O'Connor scholars would love to go: deep into Georgia College and State University's special collection of her personal library and published and unpublished manuscripts, and has emerged with a wealth of knowledge about the philosophical and theological foundations of her work. He shares this knowledge in a series of clear, thought-provoking, enlightening discussions of her short stories and novels that provide readers with a greater sense of O'Connor's worldview and purpose than can be gained from reading her fictional work in isolation. Edmondson centers his discussions on O'Connor's implicit desire to refute the troubling influence of nihilism in modern culture; thus, the discussions of O'Connor's art often address the greater issue of the moral decline of a society that seeks to antiquate notions of good and evil. O'Connor's goal was to create "large and startling pictures" to shock her willfully sightless audience into sensing the necessity for redemption and the presence of grace at work in the world. O'Connor's pictures are held up to the light by Edmondson, who points out themes and nuances rooted in her Catholicism and makes reference to the influence of others such as St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Augustine, Frederick Copleston, St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa of Avila, Jacques Maritain and Pascal. Edmondson's ideas on O'Connor's fiction and philosophy are firmly based on her own explications of her stories in letters and lectures and in the works of the theologians she most admired. Flannery O'Connor lived most of her life in Milledgeville, Georgia, and is arguably the most



influential writer to come from this region of the country. This book of essays on her work would be a valuable part of the collection of any public or academic library in Georgia. »»

— Reviewed by **Leslie R. G. Bullington**
Augusta, Georgia

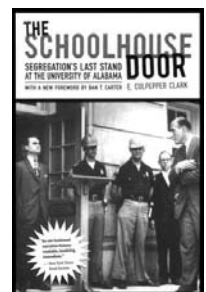
The Unexpected Exodus: How the Cold War Displaced One Southern Town by Louise Cassels (University of South Carolina Press, 2007; ISBN 978-1-57003-709-2, ISBN 1-57003-709-4, \$19.95).



Historian Susan A. Crane wrote an article titled "Writing the Individual Back into Collective Memory" that appeared in the December 1997 *American Historical Review*. Louise Cassels' book *The Unexpected Exodus* writes into history the collective memory of all the former residents of Ellenton, S.C., as they were forced to relocate to make way for the construction of the Savannah River Plant. The Savannah River Plant was constructed at the beginning of the Cold War to produce materials for weapons or fuel for power purposes. Louise Cassels was a schoolteacher and a member of the most prominent family in Ellenton. She provides readers with a vivid account of the hopes, fears and concerns of the citizens of Ellenton before and after the announcement of their need to relocate to make way for the plant. The emotions of the citizens of this small South Carolina community ran from anger to feelings of patriotism. This book not only provides insight into how the construction of the plant affected this one community but also into how the military industrial complex changed the economy of the South. Louise Cassels demonstrates that the individual really does matter in history. First published in 1971, the book will be a welcome addition to the collections of public and academic libraries. »»

— Reviewed by **Diane Fulkerson**
University of West Georgia

The Schoolhouse Door: Segregation's Last Stand at the University of Alabama by E. Culpepper Clark (University of Alabama Fire Ant Books, 2007, ISBN 9780817354336, \$24.95).



Some of us remember former Alabama Governor George Wallace's infamous schoolhouse door stand at the University of Alabama as he attempted to bar federal authorities from enforcing segregation in

Alabama schools. *The Schoolhouse Door* is the story of the events at the University of Alabama that led up to this incident and the way that segregation issues were eventually resolved at the University of Alabama. One of the first African-American students admitted to the University of Alabama was a library science student named Autherine Lucy. Ms. Lucy was not allowed to eat in the college dining hall or to live in campus housing. Unfortunately, Ms. Lucy was expelled from the university only a few days after she began the program because of racial unrest, even though she did not instigate the unrest. In order to write this powerful narrative history, Dr. Clark interviewed former University of Alabama students, faculty and administrators from the 1956-65 era. He tells their stories and interweaves documentation from campus policies, faculty meeting minutes and other documents from the '50's and '60's. The book explores the opposite views of two college presidents: Dr. Oliver Carmichael held the view that the university is powerless to move beyond political sentiment; Dr. Frank Rose, his successor, believed that the university could take an active role in promoting desegregation efforts. Dr. Clark uses a fair and balanced approach in telling this story. *The Schoolhouse Door* is a valuable narrative account of the desegregation movement in the South and its implications for desegregation nationally. This book is appropriate for high school, academic and public libraries. »»

— Reviewed by **Ravonne Green**
Valdosta State University

JUVENILE

ABC Safari by Karen Lee (Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2007; ISBN: 978-0-9777423-0-1, \$15.97).

Author/illustrator Karen Lee has created a beautiful journey through the alphabet. Clearly researched, this title teaches while it captivates young readers. More than just an alphabet book, *ABC Safari* uses beautifully descriptive language to highlight the many details of the animal kingdom. "His face is fiercely sprouting horns. Just 'keep away' his grimace warns. But truly he's a gentle guy. The Rhino's really rather shy." Children will delight in the outstanding illustrations, encompassing animals of many different biomes. This fact-based book is suitable for reading aloud to a group. The Creative Minds section at the end is reproducible for a memory



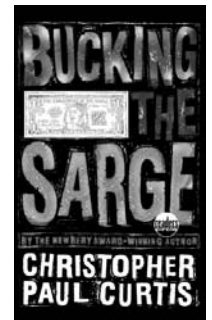
game. The only downfall of the book is that the animal profiles do not include locations. This title would be an excellent addition to any collection. »»

— Reviewed by **Lindy Moore**
West Georgia Regional Lithia Springs Branch

Bucking the Sarge by Christopher Paul Curtis (Wendy Lamb Books, 2004; ISBN 0-385-32307-7, \$15.95).

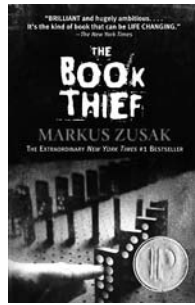
"Normally a ninth grader isn't what you think of when you mention the word 'crusader,' but that's precisely what Flint, Michigan's Whittier Middle School student Luther T. Farrell has turned out to be." Yes, Luther T. Farrell at the age of 15 is a crusader in a variety of ways. He has a college fund with \$92,000 and growing, credit cards to use and a certified driver's license. Mom, "the Sarge," pulls strings in all directions as she milks the system to build an empire using housing found in the slums for group homes. She claims all of this is being done for her one and only son, Luther. Despite Luther's age, the Sarge has placed him in charge of "The Happy Neighbor Group Home for Men," where the complete care of the residents becomes his job. Luther has higher ambitions and plans than running a slum housing empire for the Sarge. He places his focus on working hard in school, winning his third science fair project in a row and moving on to Harvard and graduating as a philosopher. Yet, he is completely dominated by his terrifying mother. Another dominating female in his life is the love of his life, Shayla, though she is his science fair project rival. When his science fair project on the dangers of lead wins, it attracts attention from the media. This attention infuriates the Sarge, and Luther realizes that the Sarge has no college money for him. With the help of his best friend Sparky, a pit bull named Poofy and the world's scariest rat, Luther sets out to break away from Sarge. The plan is put into motion. Hurray for Luther. This is a strong, motivated character. All readers will be cheering for Luther and his gang with each paragraph they read. Highly recommended for middle school students. »»

— Reviewed by **Cheryl A. Carter**
Jasper Middle School



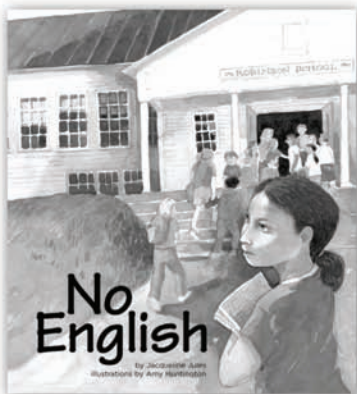
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak
(Alfred A. Knopf, 2005; ISBN 978-0375-93100-0, \$16.95).

The Book Thief, narrated by the perceptive Death, presents hauntingly beautiful visions of Nazi Germany during the Second World War. Despite efforts to avoid the living, Death comes to observe the young Liesel Meminger, rightfully dubbed "the Book Thief," on three occasions. At the age of nine, Liesel and her younger brother are brought to Molching, Germany, to live with a foster family. After the funeral of her brother, who dies in transit to the foster home, Death witnesses an illiterate Liesel stealing the *Gravedigger's Handbook* from the snow. She subsequently arrives alone at her foster parents' house on the poor Himmel (Heaven) Street. By day, Liesel is cursed by her foster mother Rosa Hubermann, who secretly possesses a heart of gold. By night, she has her nightmares comforted by her silver-eyed foster father Hans, who paints houses, plays the accordion and is a man who can keep a secret. During these sleepless



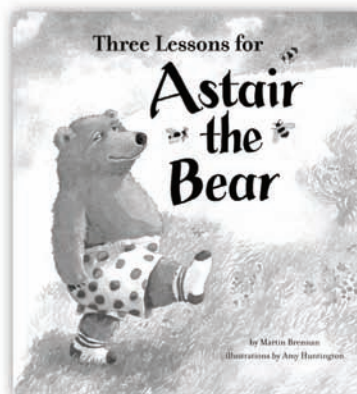
nights, Hans teaches Liesel to understand the writing in her stolen handbook. As Liesel learns to read, she craves more books and risks her life to obtain them, even stealing one from a fire. She also discovers that Molching is full of interesting people like her best friend Rudy, a boy with hair the color of lemons, and the distraught mayor's wife, Ilsa Hermann, who simply looks away when Liesel steals books from her large library. When a man named Max arrives on the Hubermann's doorstep appearing weary, broken and clutching the copy of *Mein Kampf* that saved him on his journey, Liesel's life is forever changed. Liesel's friendship with the Jewish fist-fighter and her willingness to keep her foster father's secret help her realize the extreme power of words and their use in good or evil. *The Book Thief* deserves a place in every library. The novel is one of the nominees for the 2007-2008 Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers, a 2007 Printz Honor Book, and is recommended for ages 15 through adult readers. ►►

— Reviewed by **Traci Peter**
Brenau University Trustee Library



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